Hafa Adai!

Hotel chefs duel, extended hours on final 'Taste' night. PAGE 3
MPLT chair: Premature to say gov't can't pay. PAGE 8

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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FOR INFO ON LUHK SISTERS

FBI offers $25K reward

» FBI says no tip is too small

» Grandpa still praying, hoping for closure

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The baffling disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk enters its eighth year tomorrow with a fresh bid by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to find them, this time with a reward offer of up to $25,000 for information leading to the sisters' whereabout.

Faloma Luhk

Maleina Luhk

As this developed, Elbert Quitugua, the grandfather of the Luhk sisters, said yesterday that he and his family are going to offer a Mass of special intention or remembrance at the Sta. Soledad Church in Kagman tomorrow, Saturday, at 6pm.

The Luhk sisters disappeared while waiting for a

See FBI on Page 4

TOP STUDENT-ATTORNEY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Emma Timmons shows off her trophy for Outstanding Attorney at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Athens, Georgia, from May 16 to 18, 2019. Timmons got fourth place in the coveted Top 10 student attorneys of the entire competition. Over the course of two days, 46 teams competed in four rounds. These teams came from the various states, the CNMI, Guam, and South Korea. ***See story on Page 6***

FOR AMERICAN SINOPAN:

It's back to the drawing board

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Despite being denied its bid to bring in 620 foreign workers to build its garden-themed hotel in Tanapag, American Sinopan LCC is not throwing in the towel.

The company is, in fact, going back to the drawing board to come up with a new approach to keep the Saipan Garden Resort project afloat following the denial of American Sinopan's H-2B worker applications by the Board of

See SINOPAN on Page 4

This artist's rendition shows the garden-themed hotel that American Sinopan LCC wants to build in Tanapag. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

M/V *Luta* is now M/V *Mariana*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cargo ship M/V *Luta* has been renamed M/V *Mariana* and has started operations for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Pete Reyes.

Reyes

Reyes, who chairs the CPA board's seaport facilities committee, gave the update on the status of M/V *Mariana*'s operations in a report that he submitted at a recent board meeting.

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday night about the background of M/V

See M/V LUTA on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Savana V. Manglona, the daughter of a justice and a judge, has earned her law degree.

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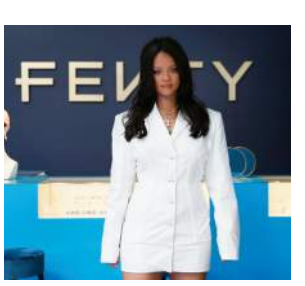
ASIA

Six people die in Indonesia in riots against President Joko Widodo.

PAGE 20



LIFE & STYLE

Rihanna is unveiling her first fashion designs for Fenty at a pop-up store in Paris.

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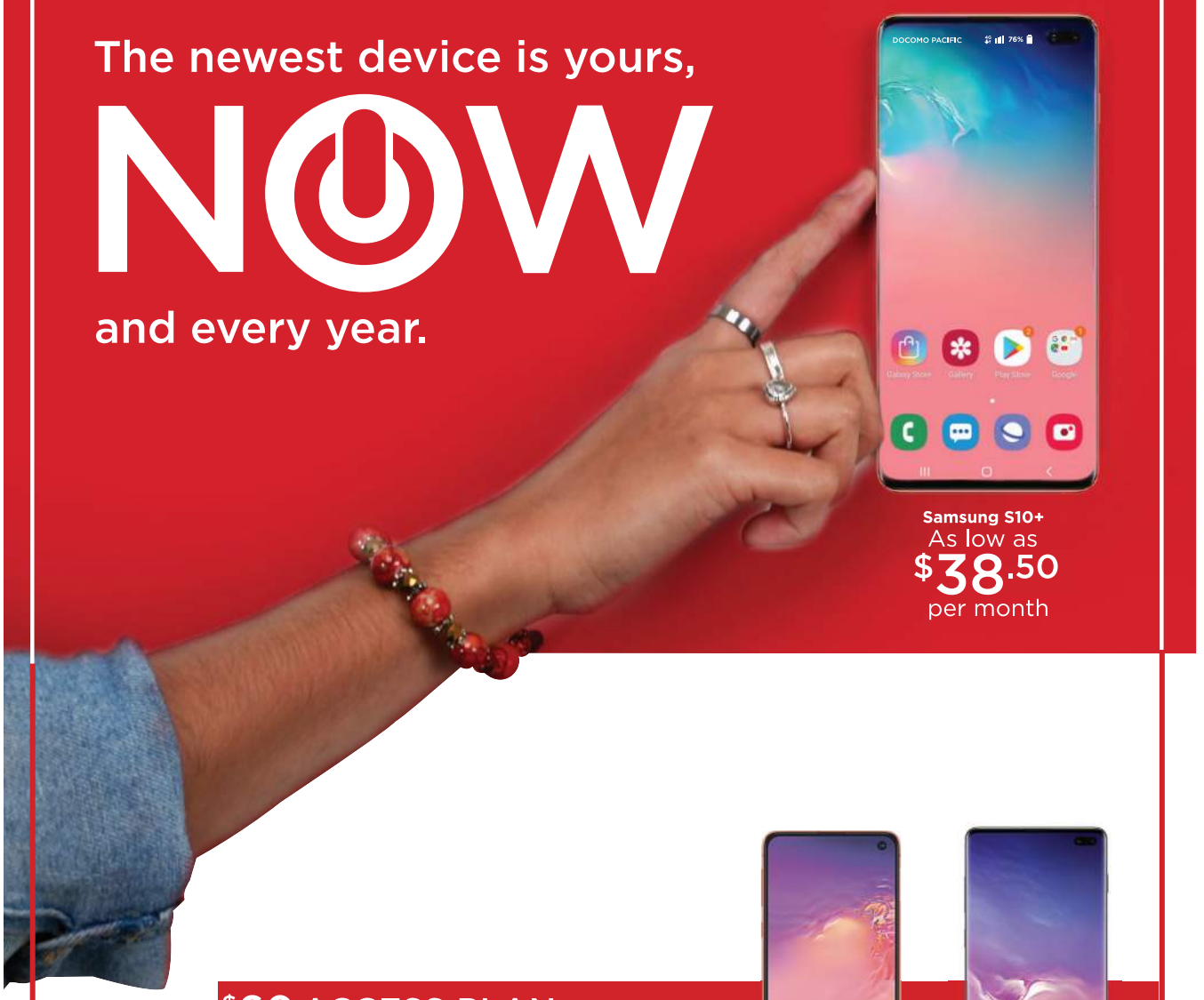

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Police checkpoints today

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting two checkpoints today, May 24. The first will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe from 9am to 12pm. The second will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Isa Drive, San Vicente from 3pm to 6pm. ***(PR)***

Mommy and Me Fun Night today

The Mommy and Me Fun Night this evening at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi=Purpose Center in Susupe will have 16 booths, treats, a raffle drawing, and live entertainment. The event is from 6pm to 9pm and is free to the public. There will also be a "special prize" for the first 50 children who complete the event passport. ***(PR)***

Pro-life walk/roll today

Grace Christian Ministries Navy Hill is inviting the public to join them for a candlelight prayer walk/roll today, May 24, at 6pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Parish church. Its purpose is to pray over the many needs of the island related to the issue of abortion. After the prayer there will be a walk/roll to Quartermaster Road then back to Garapan Fishing Base. ***(PR)***

NMC Cash for College workshop tomorrow

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free "Cash for College" workshop tomorrow, May 25, 2019, at the NMC As Terlaje campus, between Buildings N and O. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm. Participants will be given step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms. ***(PR)***

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Hotel chefs duel, extended hours on final 'Taste' night

The final night of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden tomorrow, May 25, will feature a duel between hotel chefs and an extra one-and-a-half hours of all the food, fun, and festivities.

The festival will run from 5:30pm to 11pm at American Memorial Park (token booth opens at 5pm), with up to eight chefs competing in the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Junior Chef Competition beginning at 6pm. This year's theme, "Chinese Style Beef," is a nod to the exponential growth of visitor arrivals from China in recent years. All cutting and cooking must be done on the spot, and the entries will be judged by fellow chefs beginning at 7pm.

The competition is also sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, and contestants will be required to use Certified Angus Beef sirloin flap and at least three local ingredients from Garapan Public Market.

At last Saturday's J's Fried Rice Eating Competition, professional food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi of Japan returned to defend her win in last year's J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition.

Masubuchi bested six competitors from the Marianas in eating 6 lbs of the 10-lb goal in 30 minutes. Following Masubuchi in place order were Simon Necesito, James Garcia, Andrew Songsong, Prathuan Rinthamart, Kirk Johns, and Laura Lee.

Although no contender garnered the challenge prize of $1,000 cash by finishing all the rice in time, consolations prizes were awarded from Hyatt Regency Saipan, Imperial Pacific International, and Ina's Kitchen.

"Last Saturday's J's Fried Rice Eating Competition was quite an event to see," said MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo. "We invite everyone to join the final night of fun this week as we celebrate the last week of Marianas Tourism Month."

The Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden is an annual signature event of the MVA and is one of the largest annual celebrations in the Marianas.

The festival features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage.

Each Saturday this year, the first 40 patrons to purchase $40 or more in Taste tokens will receive a free caricature sketch by Ronald Valiente. Also, those who purchase at least $20 worth of tokens this Saturday will receive a raffle ticket for giveaways throughout the evening.

Twenty-three food and drink vendors offer their tastiest dishes and brews at American Memorial Park during the event. The festival includes delights from the kitchens of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, D'Elegance Cafe, Kanoa Resort, Terry's Snack Bar, Furusato Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Mystique BBQ, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Kinpachi Restaurant, Herman's Modern Bakery, Ina's Kitchen, Matty's BBQ, Tropical Chill, The Hut, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Java Joe's, and Thai House. Drinks are offered by Saipan Brewing Co., MARPAC, and Pacific Trading Co.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/mymarianas or email communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

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CONFIRMED! JON PEREZ

Members of the 21st CNMI Senate pose with newly confirmed appointees and re-appointees of the Torres administration in different government agencies after yesterday's session at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

4.6-magnitude earthquake in Agrihan

A 4.6-magnitude earthquake hit just a few kilometers off the northern coast of Agrihan last Wednesday, according to the CNMI Department of Homeland Security.

The report stated that the earthquake occurred at 6:51am last Wednesday 51 kilometers northeast of Agrihan.

There were no reports of injuries or damage to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

The last earthquake reported in the Northern Islands was back in April. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Man involved in assault pleads not guilty

A man accused of domestic violence pleaded not guilty Monday in Superior Court.

At his arraignment, Berman Higgins, 20, pleaded not guilty to assault and battery- domestic violence before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Naraja ordered Higgins to return to court on June 25, 2019, for a status conference.

According to court documents, Higgins was not arrested but issued a penal summons for the alleged offense back in May 1, 2019.

Court information states that Higgins hit a household member on the head and face back in December 2018. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

FBI

From Page 1

school bus near their home in As Teo on May 25, 2011.

Quitugua said they are praying and hoping that someone would finally step forward to give information on what happened to his granddaughters and their whereabouts.

Quitugua said they are thankful to the FBI and police officers for not giving up in pursuing the investigations.

"We keep on praying that we will get closure," he said.

In a statement yesterday, FBI spokesperson Michele Ernst said that May 25 is National Missing Children's Day, which was proclaimed by former President Ronald Reagan in 1983.

"The 25th also happens to be the eighth anniversary of the disappearance of the Faloma and Maleina Luhk, who vanished from the U.S. territory of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," said Ernst in a press release issued yesterday.

Ernst said the FBI remains dedicated to work with the CNMI Department of Public Safety to find the missing girls, eight years after they disappeared.

"Anyone in the community who has knowledge of the matter may also contact the FBI's Saipan Office at 670-322-6934," she said.

This past fall, the FBI announced the launch of the website, luhksisters.org, which is dedicated to soliciting tips and information regarding the missing sisters.

Since its launch, the site has provided an easy way for people to submit and share information that could help solve the mystery behind the girls' disappearance.

"The FBI has been grateful for the input received and encourages anyone with information to visit the site and share information—keeping in mind that no tip is too small," Ernst said.

Faloma and Maleina were 10 and 9 years old, respectively, at the time of their disappearance at a bus stop shelter along As Teo Drive corner Santa Lourdes Road in As Teo in the morning of May 25, 2011.

When the sisters vanished, a massive monthlong search was conducted by the FBI, Department of Public Safety, and other law enforcers, and volunteers on Saipan, but no trace was found of their whereabouts.

The Luhk sisters' mother is currently in the U.S. mainland, while their father was last reported to be in Chuuk.

The controversial M/V *Luta* docked at the West Marina on Rota in this file photo. M/V Luta is now owned by a Guam company and operating as M/V *Mariana*. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

SINOPAN

From Page 1

Alien Labor Certification Appeals.

Nor will the company play the blame game. "It is a situation where nobody is to blame so we are not doing that," said American Sinopan chief executive officer Ken Lin in a telephone interview.

Right now, Lin is in Shanghai to meet with the company's board of directors to explain the judge's decision and reassess its investment on Saipan.

"With this event, we will figure a way to bring in or change the construction method of the project…and explore different options," Lin added.

He emphasized that they have to move quickly so not to lose investors. "Investors won't wait and so we are looking for ways to move on," Lin said.

He insists the company has been diligent in sending its applications to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—one in October last year and another in April for the workers it needs to start construction, and has faithfully followed U.S. regulations.

American Sinopan's original plan was for Hilton to manage the hotel it was building in Tanapag.

Last May 20, an online story on the website Law360 said that American Sinopan's application to hire H2-B workers to build its Saipan hotel had been denied by the Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals.

The story quoted Administrative Law Judge Steven B. Berlin as saying that, although American Sinopan nearly overcame some deficiencies, it left out crucial information about its business model, operations, and plan for the future after the resort is built.

"The central difficulty is that American Sinopan has not described itself adequately to make sense of its business model. …Very few corporations are formed for a short-term, temporary purpose; most people forming corporations intend that the corporation will be financially successful and continue its operations over the long term," the Law360 article quotes Berlin as saying in the decision.

Nonetheless, Lin thanks local CNMI officials for their assistance in helping American Sinopan secure its labor needs.

"We appreciate the assistance of the CNMI Labor headed by Secretary Vicky Benavente for helping explain to USCIS the situation of the workforce problem here on Saipan.

He expressed regret that Belkin was unable to fathom the operational setup of American Sinopan.

"We are not a construction company but a development company. We build and another company will [operate]….This is a recognized business model in Asia," Lin said.

"The people that I need is just for the time [when we are] building but, when applying for H-2B workers, U.S. regulations interpret that when there is development, there is construction and continuance of the business," he added.

Lin said they remain on track in pursuing the project. "Our company and investors believe in the project and the potential is definitely there."

"We hope for the continuous support of the local government. This venture will benefit tourism and economy of the island," he added.

M/V LUTA

From Page 1

Mariana, Reyes said it is the former M/V *Luta* and that he assumes it is now being run by a Guam company.

Reyes said he also assumes that M/V *Mariana*'s main home port is Rota.

The former senator said the company has yet to formally set the schedule or dates of M/V *Mariana*'s operations.

Reyes looks forward to the ship's full operations, believing it will help the people of Rota and enhance the island's economy.

"I'm grateful to whoever owns the company that owns it," said Reyes, adding that he hopes for its quick operations as this would help improve the lives of the people of Rota and Tinian, where goods are expensive. "My desire is to see this kind of result," Reyes said.

CPA board member Barrie C. Toves, who is from Rota, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he was informed by a ports official during their last committee meeting that Saipan is the home port of M/V *Mariana*.

Toves said the ship started providing services between Guam, Rota, and Saipan last month.

Toves is unsure, though, if the vessel also goes to Tinian as the island already has two operating ships.

He confirmed that the owner of M/V *Mariana* is a company in Guam.

In October 2016, Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto sued then-lieutenant governor Victor Hocog, Luta Mermaid LLC, and its officers for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for M/V *Luta*.

In June 2018, Yamamoto dropped his lawsuit.

The Luta Mermaid LLC officers are Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Yamamoto counsel George Hasselback told *Saipan Tribune* last year that M/V *Luta* is already in Guam and that another company now owns the vessel.

Hasselback also disclosed that Yamamoto has returned to Japan and that there was no settlement agreement reached between Yamamoto, Hocog, Luta Mermaid LLC, and its officers.

USCIS hastens transition to e-Processing

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday a new strategy known as eProcessing to accelerate USCIS' transition to a digital business model.

eProcessing will be a complete digital experience, from

» **New technology approach to enable expansion of online filing**

applying for a benefit, to communicating with USCIS, through receiving a decision on a case.

As a first step, certain visitors for business, visitors for pleasure, and vocational students can now apply online to extend their stay in the United States. Additional classifications are coming soon.

eProcessing connects previously separate technology systems within the agency to ultimately improve decision timeliness, increase transparency during the application process, and to accelerate the availability of online filing for all immigration benefits.

Each year, USCIS receives more than 8 million requests for immigration benefits. Improvements to USCIS technology will continue to enable more applicants to submit many of these requests online.

"One of my priorities is to accelerate the modernization of our nation's lawful immigration system," said USCIS Director L. Francis Cissna. "eProcessing modernizes USCIS' work to create a paperless solution that is more effective for applicants, our officers, and our partner agencies."

USCIS will create official digital immigration records through this fully modernized process of applying for immigration benefits. From application to decision, eProcessing will give USCIS officials faster access to applicant data. Applicants will encounter a more responsive and effective USCIS.

Applicants may confirm their online filing eligibility at uscis.gov/i539online, and then file Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status online with their USCIS account. ***(USCIS)***

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Timmons one of top student-attorneys at nat'l mock trial

Emma Timmons of the CNMI mock trial team was recognized as an outstanding student-attorney at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Athens, Georgia, that was held from May 16 to 18, 2019.

Timmons got fourth place in the coveted Top 10 attorneys of the entire competition.

The CNMI was represented by Marianas High School at the competition. Over the course of two days, 46 teams competed in four rounds. These teams came from the various states, the CNMI, Guam, and South Korea.

The CNMI ranked 38 out of the 46 teams that competed.

This year's national mock trial problem was a civil case revolving around the burnt remains of the Georgia Theatre, a famous Athens music venue. Competitors were tasked with convincing a panel of scoring jurors who committed arson and burnt down the Georgia Theatre.

Besides Timmons, Team CNMI also includes Kelvin Wolf, Shea Hartig, Cole Chambers, Vivien Liu, Marielle Sambilay, Jonathan Wolf, Steven An, and Jonah Pohl.

Three other team members accompanied the team as alternates: Ainah Chargualaf, Jerrid Igisaiar, and Esther Huh.

The faculty coach for the team is Donald Cohen, and the attorney coaches are Doug Hartig and Christopher Timmons.

Participation in this competition was made possible through the support of the CNMI Public School System, CNMI Bar Association, CNMI Judiciary, Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, CNMI Historical Society, and various other government and private entities.

"The team worked extraordinarily hard, representing the CNMI very well as a first-time team from Marianas High School. We are all extremely proud of the students and thankful for their coaches," said Gretchen Smith, 2019 CNMI Mock Trial coordinator. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI mock trial team poses with the Guam mock trial team the day before the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Athens, Georgia. Students scrimmage against each other in the days leading up to the competition.

Emma Timmons presents closing arguments against Michigan in the first round of the National High School Mock Trial Competition in in Athens, Georgia. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI team pose for their official photo at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Athens, Georgia.

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MPLT chair: Premature to say govt can't pay

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Public Land Trust chair Martin B. Ada said it is premature to say the CNMI government won't be able to repay a loan if it accedes to the government's request for a line of credit.

In an earlier presentation to the board, MPLT financial consultant Bruce MacMillan had cited the current economic climate of the Commonwealth in expressing doubt about the government's capacity to repay a loan.

Ada told *Saipan Tribune* that MPLT and the CNMI government are still in negotiations and the MPLT trustees are still deliberating within themselves.

"It is premature to say that the government cannot pay their debt. That analysis from our board consultant is one of the information that we are gathering before we make a decision," he said.

Another matter that is still in deliberation within MPLT is, if it grants a line of credit—essentially a loan—to the CNMI government, is if it will be $7.5 million, $10 million, or $15 million.

Ada stressed that the decision on the line of credit request will be done by "all MPLT trustees, the entire board, and not only me. We will discuss and vote if we're going to approve the government's request."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had asked MPLT for a $15-million line of credit that will be coursed through the Department of Finance with an interest rate of not less than 5 percent per annum.

Since receiving the governor's letter last month, MPLT has been meeting regularly to weigh the pros and cons of granting the governor's request.

The board met yesterday with acting governor Arnold I. Palacios but decided to go on recess until next Tuesday, May 28, where they want MacMillan and Finance Secretary David Atalig to attend via videoconference.

"We do respect the analysis of our financial consultant…but we're still in the process of gathering information," he said.

Ada said the trustees would follow three steps in granting the LOC.

First, for MPLT's financial consultant, MacMillan, to do an analysis on the drawdown and advice the board in looking at a payment stream based on the revenues that are coming in.

The second step is doing the portfolio optimizer, and looking at the impact of the drawdown and portfolio rebalancing.

The third and final step is having both the lawyers of the Legislature and MPLT to draft the contract with the terms and conditions of the payment.

"We will be making a decision on the line of credit once we complete two out of the three process," said Ada. "We've been discussing with acting Finance secretary [Connie Agulto]…on the ability of the government to pay. We're not yet done with our three steps. We're not yet done with our due diligence."

Blanco mulls reprogramming authority

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) is looking at granting some agencies reprogramming authority in order to make sure that funds allocated for fiscal year 2020 budget is wisely spent.

This comes soon after CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro asked the Legislature in yesterday's budget hearing to grant him 100-percent reprogramming authority.

"We do need to discuss that because…[in] circumstances like this, perhaps it is something that we might entertain. We'll see," said Blanco.

The CNMI Judiciary—composed of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Drug Court, administrative office, and Law Revision Commission—asked for a budget of $11.3 million; Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' budget proposal allots the Judiciary only $5.7 million.

Blanco assured that the House of Representatives will talk about granting full reprogramming authority "because they [Judiciary] is not the only entity that had asked for [it]. …Given the circumstances that we are in right now, that would give us that flexibility."

However, granting reprogramming authority to an expenditure authority would require a law. A bill must first be introduced at the Legislature—House or Senate—passed by both chambers, and signed by the governor. ***(Jon Perez)***

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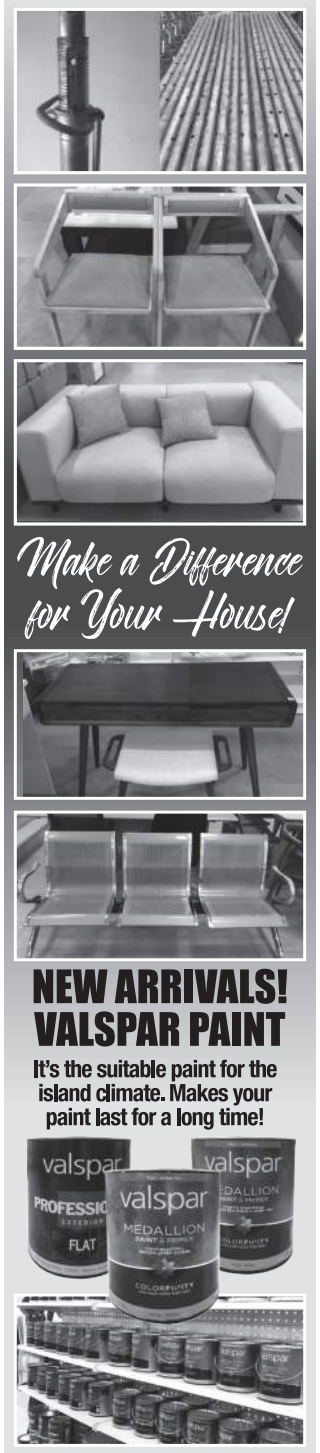
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Court grants man's request for physical evidence

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court granted last Monday Ken Matzue's request for the prosecution to produce all physical evidence, including police vehicle records and the victim's shirt, before his jury trial.

In preparation for his trial in June, Matzue, 43, through his lawyer, Stephanie Boutsicaris, made a motion to compel discovery related to the use of police vehicles and all physical evidence, including the shirt worn by the victim.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted Matzue's motions and ordered the prosecution to provide all requested documents and physical evidence by May 31 during an evidentiary hearing.

According to the motion, the documentation about the officers' vehicles would be relevant because, at some point, the officers likely placed the evidence in their vehicle.

"Evidence regarding who had access to the police vehicles will be necessary to properly investigate if the physical evidence was contaminated or even mixed up with other evidence in the vehicle," Boutsicaris said.

During Monday's hearing, Camacho also addressed some of Matzue's other motions, including a motion to suppress evidence from an illegal stop, and a motion to compel Henthorn material.

Camacho denied Matzue's request to suppress evidence from a police stop and granted the motion to compel Henthorn material, or material that could potentially prove Matzue's innocence.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Matzue, will return to court for a jury trial on June 24. A pretrial conference was set for June 5.

Matzue is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon after a stabbing incident led to his arrest in October 2018.

He remains in the custody of the Department of Correction after failing to post a bail of $15,000.

Matzue allegedly stabbed a man who had stopped him from stealing four cans of beer at a store.

The Department of Public Safety responded to a report of a robbery and stabbing incident at New Chang Ming Market in Garapan on Oct. 14, 2018.

The report stated that police arrived at the scene at 6:59pm and found the victim with lacerations on his chest.

During the interview, the victim told police that Matzue came into the store and went straight to the chiller. He allegedly saw Matzue place four cans of beer inside a bag and then walk over to the cash register with one beer in his hand.

The victim told police that he followed Matzue to the counter to ensure that he pays for the cans of beer in his bag, but Matzue only paid for the one can he was holding in his hand.

After paying for the beer, the victim told Matzue to take out the four cans of beer in his bag. When Matzue opened his bag, the victim took out the cans of beer and did not realize that Matzue had pulled a knife out of his right pocket.

Matzue allegedly stabbed the victim in his chest but the victim blocked the action and sustained a stab wound on his hand and small puncture in the chest.

Matzue immediately ran off. The victim called 911 to report the incident.

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Environmental Awareness Week next week

The final stretch of this month will be Environmental Awareness Week.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in his capacity as acting governor, signed a proclamation last Wednesday on Capital Hill declaring the week of May 27 to 31 as Environmental Awareness Week to promote awareness and provide information about taking care of the environment, especially the natural resources of the CNMI.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is the lead agency that organizes this annual event. This year's theme is "Treasure our Earth, Protect our Resources."

The weeklong event calls on everyone to do their part in keeping the islands and its surroundings clean and protected.

Palacios praised BECQ personnel and everyone that do their share in keeping the environment clean. "I don't think we need to have a list of all the things that you [BECQ officials and personnel] do for our islands," he said. "The resources of the Commonwealth is important. For some, it has become their livelihood and it encompasses the economic lifeline of the CNMI."

He added that there are some people who still fail to take their trash home after visiting the beaches. "That's why we try our very best to provide the outreach and information to the community."

"Agencies like BECQ and [the Department of Lands and Natural Resources]…are some that can paint a bright future for our beautiful islands and for our future generations," he added.

The weeklong festivity will begin with an environmental expo on May 28 and 29 at the American Memorial Park. On Thursday, May 30, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will be having a "Bringing Back Our Trees" campaign with the location to be announced. The islandwide cleanup is set on May 31 and June 1. ***(Jon Perez)***

SCHEDULED POWER INTERRUPTIONS

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has updated its scheduled power interruptions due to the early completion of Primary Source Electric's work these past few days.

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- Village location: Koblerville
- Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Koblerville (for residents along the Korean Methodist Church to the Koblerville Mobil Gas Station). See map for further details.
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm

- Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- Village location: Koblerville
- Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Koblerville (for residents along the Korean Methodist Church to the Koblerville Mobil Gas Station). See map for further details.
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines ***(PR)***

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OAG welcomes two lawyers

Ogo

Petersburg

The Office of the Attorney General announced yesterday the addition of two new assistant attorneys general, Deanna M. Ogo and Benjamin K. Petersburg, who will join the litigation team of the OAG civil division.

"On behalf of the entire office, I welcome Deanna and Benjamin to the team," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan. "Their admirable skills and years of legal experience will enhance the services of our office as they individually have chosen to become a part of the public sector and aspire to build a better CNMI. I am confident they will serve the people of the Commonwealth to the best of their abilities."

A native of the CNMI, Ogo began her career as a legal intern for the CNMI Office of the Public Defender before taking on various roles and responsibilities within the CNMI Judiciary. She served as the CNMI Superior Court's law clerk for two years, and seven years as clerk of court for the CNMI Supreme Court. As a clerk of court, Deanna managed the High Court's docket and case filings and also served on occasions as acting general counsel for the CNMI Judiciary.

Ogo coordinated the CNMI High School Mock Trial for numerous years and has conducted professional development trainings for the CNMI Judiciary.

Ogo obtained her juris doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2010 and a bachelor of arts in economics and a minor in accounting from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2007. Deanna is admitted to practice law in the CNMI.

Returning to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, Petersburg worked for the office's Criminal Division as a prosecutor in 2010 before moving to the CNMI Office of the Public Defender. He joined Berline & Associates, LLC in 2015 as an associate attorney and became a member of the Criminal Justice Act panel in the District Court for the NMI.

Petersburg got started on his law career as a law clerk for Randy Trca Law Firm in Iowa City, and interned in the Criminal Defense and Immigration department of the University of Iowa College of Law Legal Clinic. Before his move to the CNMI, Petersburg worked as a judicial extern in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa under the guidance of U.S. Magistrate Judge Celeste F. Bremer.

Petersburg has sat on the boards of various organizations such as the Commonwealth Development Authority, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Refaluwasch Golf Association and is a member of the Marianas Young Professionals.

Petersburg obtained his juris doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law and a bachelor of arts degree in English and Philosophy from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Petersburg is admitted to practice law in Iowa and the CNMI. ***(PR)***

2019 Women's Health Month

Women's health month (WHM) serves as a reminder for women to make their health a priority and build positive health habits for life.

This May, take steps for your health.

Early detection is your best protection against cervical cancer. Getting your pap test done regularly can help find and treat irregularities/abnormal changes in your cervix before it becomes cervical cancer. The Breast & Cervical Screening Program under the Division of Public Health Services can help pay for your pap test. For more information about getting a pap test done, or for information on other women's services, please call 236-8731/27.

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May 9th at TWINS MARKET IN DAN DAN 5:00PM-6:30PM

Systems of Care Family Expo
May 25th at CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE 10:00AM-2:00PM

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RFQ19-GOV-088

Request for Qualification for Provisions of Architect and Engineering Services for Planning and Technical Assistance to Assess, Identify and Develop Mitigation Opportunities (Hazard Mitigation Sections 406 and 404) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Governor's Authorized Representative, (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide A&E Services for Planning and Technical Assistance to Assess, Identify and Develop Mitigation Opportunities (Hazard Mitigation Sections 404 and 406) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Selected architects and engineers will be retained as independent contractors under the general provision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Architects and engineers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected architects and engineers will be retained on a two year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth.

Compensation for A&E Services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects and/or task orders including payments for approved staff and expenses. The Commonwealth will negotiate with the selected individuals or firms to determine the scope of work and responsibilities.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements at the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or request electronic mail (attn.: Leona DLG. Sablan leona.cip@gmail.com) beginning May 24, 2019, during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the scope of work and submittal requirements.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on June 7, 2019 10:30 a.m. at the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions about this project shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., in writing via email: esb.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 by June 11, 2019.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable. Fee estimates will assist the Office of the Governor for budgeting purposes, but will not be considered in the firm evaluation scores.

Statement of Qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification (Personnel, Education and Professional Licenses)	30 points
2. Experiences (similar projects)	30 points
3. Project approach to the types of projects	20 points
4. Workload and resources	20 points

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked RFQ19-GOV-088 Provisions of A&E Services for Planning and Technical Assistance to Assess, Identify and Develop Mitigation Opportunities (Hazard Mitigation Sections 406 and 404) for the CNMI. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statements must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than 9:00 a.m., June 18, 2019. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on June 18, 2019 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cmnidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statements must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 18, 2019, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply by June 27, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
SAMB/Governor's Authorized Representative

Joaquin S. Reyes
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Savana Manglona is all smiles after receiving her juris doctor last Saturday in Davis, California. Friends and family, including her parents, Justice John A. Manglona and Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, and brother, Dencio, joined her at the graduation ceremony. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Savana Manglona earns law degree from UC Davis Law

Savana Villagomez Manglona, the daughter of a CNMI Supreme Court justice and U.S. District Court judge, has earned her law degree from the University of California Davis School of Law.

Manglona, the daughter of CNMI Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona and U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, received her juris doctor diploma last weekend together with 150 other graduating law students at the Mondavi Center in the UC Davis campus.

The ceremony was keynoted by U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

During her time at UC Davis, Manglona was selected as a Sacramento County Bar Association diversity fellow, served as judicial extern for Nunley, and worked at two Sacramento law firms during the summer breaks.

Manglona, an active member of the Moot Court Honors Board, served as a note writer and reprint editor for the Immigration and Nationality Law Review. She also received the Dean's Merit Scholarship during her three years in law school.

Manglona is a recipient of the Public Law Service Program Certificate, having served many hours of public service. She received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley in 2015.

Manglona is preparing to take the California bar examination and will be working at a Sacramento law firm beginning mid-September. She hopes to return to the CNMI after gaining some work experience in the U.S. mainland. ***(PR)***

MCS board keeps tuition flat, raises salaries

In an effort to continue helping parents, Mount Carmel School's board of directors recently decided to maintain current tuition levels. At the same time, the board also decided to raise employee salaries by 20 percent to make salaries more competitive.

In maintaining current tuition levels, the board recognized that issues such as immigration and austerity measures are weighing heavily on many families. In the past 20 years, the school has only twice raised tuition across the board—in 1999 and in 2009. Despite this, over the past five years, the has board approved sustainable and incremental salary increases that now add up to a 45-percent increase over that time period.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero applauded the decision of the board, which is led by chairman and AlumKnight Vicente Babauta.

It's always been our goal to offer the best Catholic education possible while keeping it affordable for our parents," Deleon Guerrero said. "By raising salaries without raising tuition, the board has demonstrated sound fiscal management that invests in our most important resource, our faculty and staff."

To further protect families from any sudden tuition increases in the future, the board also adopted a new tuition policy. The policy sets forth clear guidelines for engaging all stakeholders in tuition discussions and requires that any changes in tuition be announced at least six months before the start of a school year in which an increase will be effectuated. The new policy also caps any tuition increase to no more than 2 percent per year.

In addition to maintaining current tuition levels, the school will also continue family discounts for families that enroll more than one child. Families with two children can avail of a $600-discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a $1,000-discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a $1,500 discount for the fourth child.

To learn more about enrolling at Mount Carmel School for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Kosrae health center officials visit Kagman CHC

Officials from the Kosrae Community Health Center visited the Kagman Community Health Center last week to learn about the Kagman clinic's fiscal set up as an independent health center.

The Kosrae delegation consisted of its chief executive officer, Nena Tolenoa, three board members, and their finance manager.

"As part of a health center health survey, we found that our community wants the Kosrae health center to become an independent health center like the Kagman Community Health Center," said Tolenoa. "We want to learn more from your organization to help us in our plan to manage our own finances."

The Kagman Community Health Center did presentations on finance, human resources, operations, including the KCHC board's paperless meeting system and then walked them through any areas of concern.

The delegation also had a chance to meet with some of the Kagman clinic's board members. In the meeting, the Kagman Community Health Center board chair, Velma Palacios, suggested that the two organizations can become sister health centers through a memorandum of agreement so that information can be shared freely between the two. The Kosrae delegation was very excited about this and are eager to get things moving. ***(PR)***

From left, Norma Borja, Vince Castro, Frances Santos, Sepe Monkeya, Nena Tolenoa, Emeral Nena, Mako Torres, Dison Kephas, Velma Palacios, Jacob Ned, and Crystal Deleon Guerrero

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Tanghal graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jeremie B. Tanghal graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Tanghal

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Tanghal is the son of William B. and Cilda B. Tanghal of Saipan. He is a 2018 graduate of Marianas High School. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 102
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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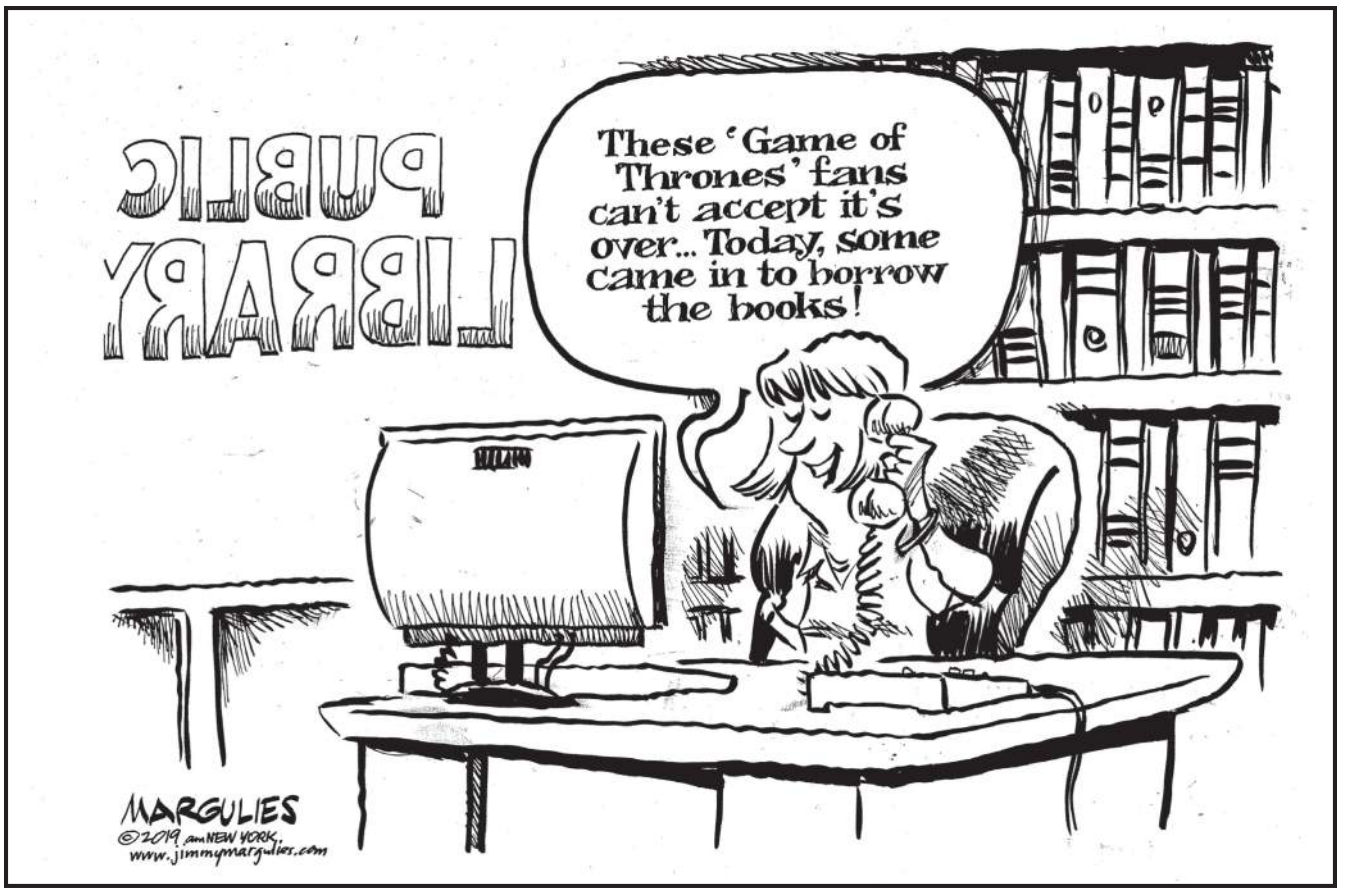
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EDITORIAL

Kris Kobach has a few demands before he'll agree to be America's top xenophobe.

Kris Kobach isn't asking much to grant America his services as President Donald Trump's new immigration czar. Just 24/7 use of a government jet. And a West Wing office with "walk-in" privileges to the Oval Office. And a future appointment to head Homeland Security. Oh, and authority over top Cabinet officials, including the attorney general and the secretary of defense.

For these and some other modest demands, America would get an immigration czar who's spent his whole career proving how disastrous such an appointment would be. What a bargain!

Kobach's entire elective resume consists of two terms as Kansas' secretary of state and the loss of a gubernatorial race. Yet he's shown a Forrest Gump-like ability to insert himself into some of America's biggest controversies—if Gump had been a self-promoting purveyor of noxious xenophobia.

In 2017, Kobach signed on to co-chair a commission investigating Trump's unfounded claim that illegal voting by non-citizens cost him the 2016 popular vote. There was never a molecule of truth to Trump's vote-fraud assertion, but that didn't stop Kobach from making a three-ring show out of the commission before it was unceremoniously shuttered.

Remember the notorious "papers, please" law allowing former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio to essentially stop anyone with brown skin and demand they prove their citizenship? Kobach, freelancing outside his own state, was its chief architect. He co-authored a similar measure in Alabama and offered legal counsel to defend anti-immigrant laws in Pennsylvania and Texas.

Now Trump wants an "immigration czar" to coordinate immigration policy across federal agencies. Given Trump's open hostility toward immigrants almost regardless of legal status, Kobach perhaps believes he has an in. How else to explain a remarkable list of his demands reported by The New York Times?

In addition to the jet, a top-paying designation as "Assistant to the President" and other perks, Kobach is asking that he become, effectively, more powerful than people whose appointments have to be confirmed by the Senate (this one wouldn't, possibly by design).

Among Kobach's demands is that the president "sits down individually with Czar and the secretaries of Homeland Security, Defense, Justice, Ag, Interior, and Commerce, and tells each of the Secretaries to follow the directives of the Czar without delay, subject to appeal to the President in cases of disagreement."

See KRIS on Next Page

What drives gas prices up—and how we can steer them down

By NICOLAS LORIS
The Heritage Foundation

Nicolas Loris is deputy director of the Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies and the Morgan Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

As Memorial Day kicks off the summer season, hotdogs, cold beers and pool openings aren't the only things on the minds of Americans. AAA expects a record 37.6 million Americans to hit the road and drive more than 50 miles for the long weekend, which means gas prices are also on their minds.

Nationally, gas prices have risen steadily since the beginning of the year, though they dropped recently to $2.86 per gallon. Snow and unseasonably cold weather in the Midwest and western U.S. kept Americans at home in recent weeks, decreasing demand and lowering prices a few cents per gallon. The current national average is nearly identical to what gas prices were a year ago.

Weather, though, is just one component that affects the price at the pump. The price of crude oil is the single largest factor.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, crude oil prices make up 57% of the price of retail gas. Federal and state taxes, refining and distributing and marketing accounts for the rest. A number of factors both in the U.S and around the world affect the supply of and demand for oil, which consequently influences the price we pay.

Counterbalancing events have kept oil prices relatively stable as of late. The United States is now the world's largest oil producer, which has offset dwindling supplies from Iranian sanctions and Venezuela's economic collapse, as well as falling production in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Canada. A recent drone strike shut down a Saudi Arabian pipeline, and attacks on two of their oil tankers has Mideast tensions running high. Continued unrest in Libya could threaten future supplies.

On the demand side, a weaker-than-projected global economic growth, particularly in Europe and Asia, lowered oil consumption. Major trade disputes between the U.S. and China create economic uncertainty, and tariffs that raise prices on consumers weaken economic growth and oil demand. But the American economy is strong, and the time for summer vacations is right around the corner, which puts upward pressure on prices.

There's a lot at play here, which is why forecasting where gas prices will be in the next six months is as reliable as a Magic 8 Ball. And let's not forget public policy. Clearly, a number of variables that are out of policymakers' control (such as weather) affect gas prices.

Yet, many federal government policies artificially inflate gas prices—and here is one area where Congress and the Trump administration can and should do something.

The first order of business for Congress is to do no harm.

For example, several lawmakers have floated the idea of increasing the federal gas tax to pay for a massive infrastructure bill. But if households spend more on gas, they have less disposable income to save or to spend, whether on entertainment, on clothes, or on health care. Businesses will face higher costs for transporting their goods and will pass those costs on to consumers. Low-income families who spend a higher percentage of their budget on energy bills will be hardest hit.

Supporters of the gas tax argue that it is an effective user fee, in effect "charging" drivers for their use of the roads and resulting pollution. In practice, however, the gas tax is a dishonest ploy to raise taxes on all Americans and allow the size and scope of the federal government to grow unchecked.

Instead of improving the National Highway System, Washington earmarks revenue to wasteful mass transit projects. Federal infrastructure projects are inefficient, rife with cronyism and cost overruns. Alternatively, Congress should empower state governments and local governments, which are better connected to the true infrastructure needs of their communities.

Furthermore, Congress should implement reforms that will open access to energy markets and drive down prices at the pump. When it comes to oil and natural gas production, Americans are fat and happy. As the world's largest oil and gas producer, the U.S. is an undisputed energy powerhouse. But that is no excuse for policy complacency.

Opening access to America's abundance of resources now will ensure that businesses can respond more effectively to changes in prices, rather than waiting for Congress to react after prices become politically uncomfortable. Congress should:

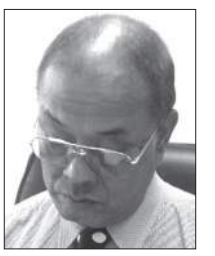
- Streamline infrastructure permitting to ensure that more oil gets out of the ground and to market while maintaining high environmental standards.
- Jettison federal policy mandates that refiners blend ethanol into our fuel supply, which drives up fuel and food prices for households.
- Eliminate century-old laws (such as the Jones Act) that limit which ships can carry oil from coast to coast, forcing prices higher and protecting special interests.

These are the policy reforms necessary for American energy producers to capitalize on our wealth of natural resources, which will drive the economy and the prices at the pump in the right direction.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Cooperation sought

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The governor has sought the cooperation of the Legislature to move economic growth forward in unison. Good effort to resuscitate the deepening economic contraction jointly.

Reportedly, though, he's out doing aerial photo of the oceanic and celestial blue of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

He knows the obvious challenge is in the apparent increase in obligations while revenue generation seemed to have critically stagnated or gone south, simultaneously.

It's known as "economic contraction"—when economic growth slows down or heads south—shuttering wealth and job opportunities. So we've morphed from "short," "cut," and "down" to "loan" and "line of credit" in budgetary discussions to figure out a scheme to pay for mounting obligations.

It was triggered by two superstorms and major exit of Nippon investments. Recovery takes billions of dollars and time to return to normalcy. We would get there somehow or am I being overly optimistic?

Meanwhile, we've yet to figure out how to recoup billions of dollars in revenue losses from the exit of Nippon investments. The exit has the most devastating economic impact here translating into far less revenues.

Puzzling, though, how we've looked at a set of facts, reset buttons reawakening civic virtues, determined to reconcile adolescency. Then leave it dead on its back, commanding, "Wait for me at Smiling Cove!" We treat it with arrogance and indifference or lack of resolve.

Moreover, has anything been done to figure out the extent of this economic contraction? Or was it ignored altogether? Do we bluff it with ignorance and arrogance?

Or is there a fully thought-out plan already in the back burner to cushion the billions of dollars in losses in recent past? Appalling the grand inaction wrapped in indifference and negligence while our house is on fire.

Is "depth of perception" the missing equation on this issue? In other words, do you know your ABC's on basic economics to understand the implications of investment exit in the billions of dollars?

I ask because it is obvious policymakers walk around sporting intelligent looks, treating major economic contraction as though it's business as usual! Unsettling!

Indigenous: There's a lot emphasis placed on the term "indigenous" as if we've been subjected to a long history of ethnic discrimination.

The perceptual issue was insulated with the establishment of Indigenous Affairs, Carolinian Affairs, Community and Cultural Affairs, and Women's Affairs, among others. All are supposed to guard our future, including Article XII limiting landownership to the indigenous people.

What have these agencies done in concrete fashion to improve the quality of life of the indigenous people? Sure, there's the biweekly collection of their taxpayer-paid loot and boastful self-importance, patrolling villages in expensive, and again, taxpayer-paid vehicles and cell phones.

A lot of respect is rendered the expressed aspiration of our people on land. Yet I wonder how this would fare against a citizen's rights (non-indigenous) to own property here?

I know that land alienation was mentioned as highly suspect when subjected to judicial review. It's rights versus land alienation, the latter compromising the former. How do you deny a citizen's rights to property?

Not ready to hide behind the veil of ethnicity suppressing the rights of other fellow citizens. People are people and their needs are basically the same all over. If they find the NMI the perfect venue for their families, we should welcome them never mind the protectionist landownership imposition. Whatever happened to our unmatched sense of hospitality?

For over 40 years U.S. taxpayers have generously provided for our needs via annual appropriations. Never once did they protest that its use is limited to stateside taxpayers only. As such, the reciprocal goal should focus on the establishment of good communities by protecting the rights of every citizen. People are people!

Tech: At the personal level, digital technology only requires a laptop where you conduct daily business in the comfort of your home or office that includes high-speed internet tech.

We're fortunate we have high-speed internet while many rural areas across the country are still without it.

The point about DT is that it offers grand opportunity to cut back heavily on unwarranted and wasteful junket trips when the benefits of DT is available.

I suppose it's the aura of self-importance that makes junkets vital for them ignoring it is paid for by taxpayers.

For junior and senior managers who see DT as a foreign lingo, it pays to take a workshop to learn the skill forthwith. Yep! Saves taxpayers millions of dollars in wasted travel money. Take it ASAP. After all, work is on the ground, never in the air!

A significant void: Our time here is limited

By JIM RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

After more than 20 years of working at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., otherwise known as NMPASI, long-time advocate for people with disabilities and friend to nearly everyone he met, Jimmy G. Sablan, affixed his signature to a week's worth of documents, locked up the office and drove away for the last time; he worked late that day (as he often did). Later that same evening—it was April 3, 2019—he'd be helped into an ambulance, all the while assuring his brothers and other family around him, "I'm okay."

That was Jimmy. Always (in his own words) "good, good" or "okay," no matter what was going on with or around him; always even-keeled.

In fact, on that particular night, he was not okay and shortly after midnight he drew his last breath and his time with us ended. In the grand scheme of all things human, mortality reigns supreme. One way or another we all fall down…ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Our time here is limited.

Maybe we can take some comfort in knowing that, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4). Or maybe we can find peace in knowing too that, "Death is the irreducible common denominator of all men" and "hope to find some consolation from Christianity's affirmation that death is not the end. Death is not a period that ends the great sentence of life, but a comma that punctuates it to more lofty significance" (MLK, 1963).

Jimmy G. Sablan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For many of us, Jimmy leaves a significant void. A void that really can never be filled except with the memories and love each of us have for the gentle, virtuous human being that he was—"fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). It is an understatement to say that I miss him; no doubt I am not the only one.

While I'm tempted to expound further on the virtues of my late friend, I know with some certainty that he wouldn't want me to do it. He was not a man who needed or wanted praise. Instead, he relished in being able to praise others. He had an uncanny knack for finding and pointing out the positives in people (even when the rest of us couldn't) and he looked to help in whatever way he could. For those of us who knew him, it comes as no surprise that he made a career out of advocating for others, more particularly for those who, through no fault of their own, could not advocate for themselves whether that be clients through work or his fellow Micronesians in need of guidance and/or a voice in their pursuits of life, liberty and happiness.

Jimmy was not a prideful man, but he was proud (albeit silently…actions do speak louder than words) of his heritage, his culture and subsequently his family. I have rarely seen the kind of reverence between siblings that he and his hold for each other and their kids. I feel like a better person just for having been his friend all these years, but can only hope to emulate his example.

In the end, I knew him to be content. He was a man who lived life on his own terms, played hard, worked hard, and knew not to stress over the things we cannot change. His last hours on Earth were spent in service to others and in talking-story with jokes and laughter in the company of those closest to him. Though I can't presume to know his last thoughts, I will venture to guess that his heart was filled with gratitude—that he felt blessed for the life he had and humbled by the people who shared it with him.

May God exalt and rest his peaceful soul. It has been one of my greatest honors to live this life in friendship with him—all in God's plan.

For more about Jimmy and the advocacy work he did, feel free to contact the NMPASI office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] or online at www.nmpasi.org.

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

KRIS

From Page 14

Trump seems blind to factors like Kobach's malicious approach to immigration issues, his involvement in laws that keep getting overturned, or even the fact that his attempt to prove Trump's voter-fraud fantasy wound up thoroughly disproving it. Giving Cabinet-dominating authority to a non-Senate-confirmed position would be constitutionally questionable. But abiding by the Constitution never was one of Trump's top concerns.

Trump might nevertheless want to consider this: Any self-proclaimed dealmaker who linked up with a grifter like Kris Kobach would be certifiable—as a chump.

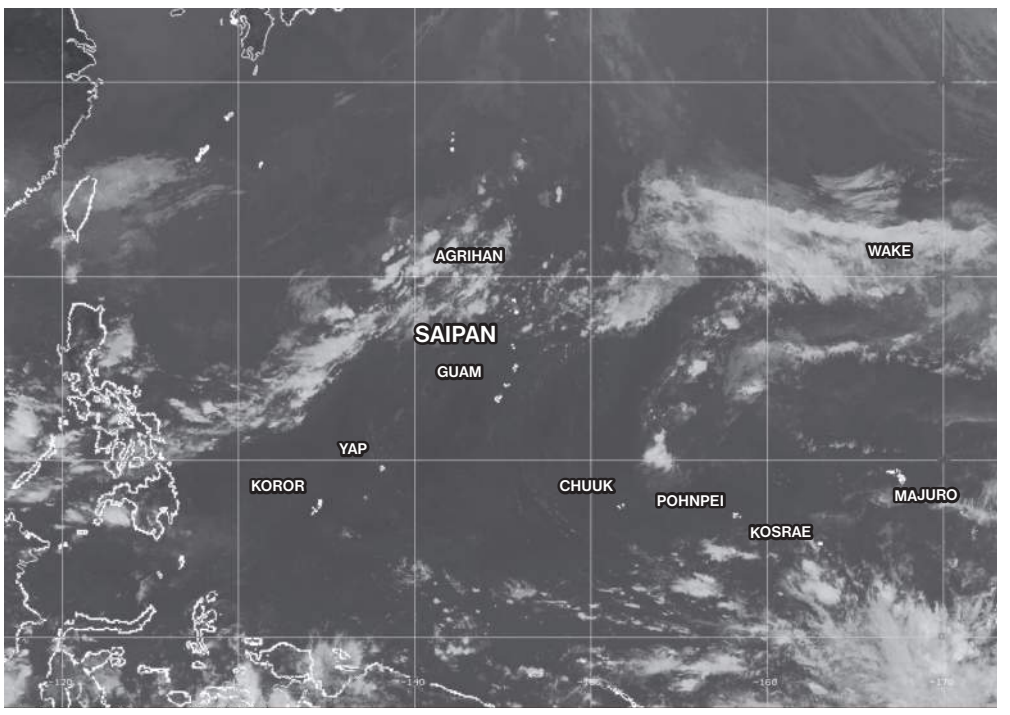
(c)2019 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms	Partly cloudy with isolated showers	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 79°	89° 78°	80° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:18 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates south-southwest winds at 2 to 7 knots through the lowest 2 thousand feet of the air.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 55°
Beijing	Rain	75° / 57°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	67° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	59° /46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 78°
New York	Mostly Sunny	69° / 62°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Rome	Cloudy	72° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	95° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 64°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
6:01 AM	LOW TIDE	1.24
10:03 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.60
5:44	LOW TIDE	-0.06

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:11 AM	11:23 PM
Saturday	-	11:01 AM	-
Sunday	12:06 AM	11:51 AM	-
Monday	12:46 AM	12:39 AM	-
Tuesday	1:25 AM	1:26 AM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Officials at Hawaii tsunami center say fake alert circulated

HONOLULU (AP)—Officials at a tsunami monitoring center in Hawaii say a fake threat was circulated about an earthquake in Japan and subsequent tidal wave.

News outlets reported Tuesday that the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center on Oahu said there is no tsunami threat in the Pacific after a "fabricated message was circulated."

Officials say the bogus message went out after 4 p.m. on a global telecommunications system used by the World Meteorological Organization based in Switzerland.

The message said a magnitude 8.0 earthquake occurred in Japan near Nagasaki, although the coordinates given were not accurate.

Authorities say clues the message was bogus included misspellings the inclusion of only a few parts of what would normally be sent.

Officials say the National Weather Service will investigate.

Emergency water service interruption

There was an emergency water service interruption yesterday due to a damaged pipe in Isley Field and repair work was expected to be completed last night.

According to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. advisory, the water outage affected Dandan, Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, As Lito, portions of As Perdido, Saint Jude Church, and portions of Adobu Drive in Koblerville and Tottotville.

The CUC advisory stated that CUC water operations personnel noticed that the water level in the Dandan reservoir was not in its normalcy level. For further investigation, CUC water operations personnel were then sent to scan for leaks and found a damaged 6" transmission water line in Isley Field.

Repairs were expected to be done by 7pm last night. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water service soon after. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

Volunteers sought for AMP Memorial Day activity

In observance of Memorial Day this Monday, the American Memorial Park will honor all those who died serving in America's armed forces.

In remembrance of the American servicemen who lost their lives during the World War II Marianas Campaign, park staff invites the public to join the lighting of hundreds of luminaria along the walkway to the Court of Honor. The luminaria will be lit on May 26, 2019, and will remain lit through Memorial Day.

The park needs volunteers this Sunday, May 26, to help place the LED candles in the luminaria leading up to the Court of Honor. This will start at 3:30pm.

On May 27, take time to remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. Visit the Court of Honor, which is inscribed with the names of 5,204 servicemen killed or missing in action during World War II. At sunset, pay tribute to the fallen in the glow of over 500 luminarias. Each luminaria represents 10 names inscribed on the Court of Honor. Wreaths made by participating schools will also be on display to honor all servicemen and women who have lost their lives.

During Memorial Day weekend and throughout the year, between the hours of 9am and 4pm, everyone is welcome to the Visitor Center to watch the park film and tour the exhibit. For more information contact Ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 Ext. 2020 or email her at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-085

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 17, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW PICK-UP TRUCK, 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – BROWN TREE SNAKE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-086

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 17, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW WAVE RUNNER JETSKI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – ENFORCEMENT SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Ray S. Masga
Director, DEQ

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) would like to inform the general public that DCRM will be

CLOSED

on May 23 (Thursday) & May 24 (Friday), 2019

for a Professional Development Workshop.

Regular office hours will resume on May 28, 2019.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of May 24, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc.	05/08/2019 SPI-2019-X-032	Drydock	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 05/14/2019
2. Song & Jang dba B&B Grotto	04/26/2019 STLR-2018-X-074-R2	Snorkeling	Grotto, Saipan Eastbay, Saipan Forbidden, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
3. Time Creation Corporation Dba TCC Diving Tour	05/06/20149 SLR-2018-X-070-R2	Snorkeling & SCUBA Diving	Mañagaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
4. Marine Tech (Saipan), Inc. Dba S2 Club	05/08/2019 STLR-2018-X-130-R2	SCUBA Diving	All Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
5. Big Eye, LLC	05/08/2019 SLR-2018-X-128-R2	SCUBA Diving	All Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
6. Hi-Five Co., LTD	05/09/2019 SLR-2019-X-115-R2	Snorkeling	Mañagaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
7. Aqua Connections, Inc.	05/09/2019 STLR-2018-X-067-R2	SCUBA Diving & Snorkeling	All Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
8. Wondersea Saipan, Inc.	05/09/2019 STLR-2018-X-103-R2	SCUBA Diving	All Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
9. Advance Marine Saipan Corporation	05/09/2019 SLR-2018-X-097-R2	Parasailing	Mañagaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
10. Micronesia Resort, Inc. Dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	05/10/2019 SLR-2018-X-185-R2	Kayaking, Snorkeling, & Stand Up Paddle Boarding	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
11. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. dba Super Fish Dive Tours	05/14/2019 SLR-2018-X-118-R2	Windsurfing, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Kayaking, Snorkeling	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
12. Blue Sea Sports, Inc.	05/16/2019 SLR-2018-X-066-R2	SCUBA Diving	All Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
13. Saipan A-Venture, LLC Dba Saipan Adventure	05/16/2019 SLR-2018-X-099-R2	Snorkeling	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
14. United Front Co., Ltd. Dba Super Fish Diving	05/16/2019 SLR-2018-X-085-R2	SCUBA Diving, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Boarding	All Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
15. Deep Blue, Inc. dba Deep Blue Diving	05/16/2019 STLR-2018-X-098-R2	SCUBA Diving & Instructions	All Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
16. Phoenix Enterprise Inc. Dba Phoenix Marine Sports	05/17/2019 SLR-2018-X-114-R2	Snorkeling & Hobie Cat	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
17. Marianas Trekking	05/17/2019 SLR-2018-X-101-R2	Kayaking, Snorkeling, & Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Saipan Lagoon Mañagaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18. Shim Corporation dba Pro Divers Saipan	05/20/2019 STLR-2018-X-100-R2	SCUBA Diving	All Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
19. World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort	05/21/2019 SLR-2018-X-160-R2	Kayaking, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Windsurfing & Floaters	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

Retailers, shoppers could feel more pain if tariffs spread

NEW YORK (AP)—An escalating trade war between the U.S. and China could mean higher prices on a broad array of products from toys to clothing. But some retailers will be less equipped to handle the pain than others, leaving consumers to carry the load.

Analysts say big box giants like Target and Walmart who marked their latest quarter with strong performance are best positioned to absorb the higher costs because of their clout with suppliers. They're also taking a judicious approach to price increases to lessen the impact.

The losers will be the ones that have been struggling all along—the mall-based clothing stores and others that sell commoditized products like basic sweaters or that don't have the financial wherewithal to absorb extra costs.

Consumers, as well as most retailers, had been left largely unscathed by the first several rounds of tariffs that the U.S. imposed on China because they mostly focused on industrial and agricultural products. But that began to change when items like furniture saw an increase in tariffs to 25% two weeks ago.

Retailers will absorb the extra costs when those products arrive in U.S. ports in June. But now the Trump administration is preparing to extend the 25% tariffs to practically all Chinese imports not already hit with levies, including toys, shirts, household goods and sneakers.

AP
This Oct. 26, 2016, file photo, shows prices in the toy section at Walmart in Teterboro, N.J.

Cowen & Co. estimates shoppers could see as much as 10% to 15% in price increases across all goods imported from China, which would mean an incremental cost of $100 billion or more.

Retail executives from a wide array of stores from Walmart to Kohl's said on conference calls with analysts this week and last week that they remain optimistic about the financial health of the consumer, citing low unemployment and a strong economy. But shoppers could balk at paying higher prices on things they don't need, especially those in the lower income bracket who are sensitive to any cost increases.

Analysts believe shoppers' habits will change if the trade wars escalate and the next round of hikes stay in place for a while.

"It will change behaviors and change how much people buy and where people do that buying," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail.

Greg Petro, CEO of First Insight, a technology firm that advises retailers and brands on pricing decisions, believes that if prices do rise because of the new tariffs, they will be permanent but not all products will be hit the same way. For example, home decor is less sensitive to price increases than big furniture based on millions of data points his firm collects monthly. Women's clothing is more sensitive to price hikes than men's clothing. In children's shoes, which lost a big player Payless ShoeSource, retailers will have more power to increase prices since the shoe supply has gone down, he said.

Meanwhile, UBS is offering a dire analysis of what the new tariffs could mean in terms of store closures. UBS was already forecasting that nearly 21,000 stores in the U.S. would shutter by 2026, but with the next round of tariffs, more than 50% of those closures would occur within one year instead of four, it said.

"We continue to think the apparel and footwear consumer's willingness to spend remains tepid at best," UBS retail analyst Jay Sole wrote in his report.

In fact, nearly 200 footwear retailers and brands including Adidas and Shoe Carnival wrote a letter to President Donald Trump on Monday calling for him not to slap tariffs on footwear imported from China.

The group, the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America, estimates Trump's proposed actions will add $7 billion in additional costs for customers every year.

Many retailers from Macy's to Walmart warned that even though the escalating trade wars would mean higher prices for shoppers, the situation is still fluid.

Walmart said it's been closely working with suppliers and says it will look at price increases on a case by case basis. Target's CEO Brian Cornell said it will be able to weather the storm better than others because it sells a variety of items instead of focusing on a single product.

US, China appear to brace for long haul in trade dispute

WASHINGTON (AP)—With negotiations on hold and tariffs piling up, the United States and China appear to be bracing for a prolonged standoff over trade.

Beijing is airing Korean War movies (antagonist: America) to arouse patriotic feelings in the Chinese public and offering tax cuts to software and chip companies as U.S. export controls threaten Chinese tech companies.

In Washington, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is talking to Walmart and other companies about finding ways to ease the pain if President Donald Trump goes ahead with plans to extend import taxes to the $300 billion in Chinese products that haven't already been hit with tariffs.

And the Trump administration is working on an aid package for American farmers hurt by China's retaliatory tariffs on soybeans and other U.S. agricultural products—on top of last year's $11 billion farm bailout.

Mnuchin and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer wrapped up an 11th round of talks with the Chinese earlier this month without reaching an agreement to resolve a dispute over Beijing's aggressive efforts to challenge American technological dominance. The U.S. charges that China is stealing technology, unfairly subsidizing its own companies and forcing U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets if they want access to the Chinese market.

"It's really hard to identify whether this the beginning of a prolonged conflict or just negotiating tactics," said David Dollar, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the World Bank and U.S. Treasury. "I increasingly think that this is going to turn into a long-term trade conflict. We have to entertain the possibility that there is no deal."

Dollar points to the airing of Korean War movies and comments by President Xi Jinping suggesting that the Chinese people need to steel themselves for another "Long March"—a reference to the legendary and arduous trek Mao Zedong's Communists made to escape pursuers from China's ruling Nationalist government in 1934-1935.

The world's two biggest economies are already locked in the costliest trade combat since the 1930s.

The United States has imposed 25% tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to target another $300 billion—a move that would cover everything China ships to the United States.

China has targeted $110 billion in U.S. products in retaliation.

China is also looking at other ways to pressure the United States.

3 Chinese airlines seeking Boeing compensation over 737 Max

BEIJING (AP)—China is stepping up pressure on Boeing Co. as its airlines demand compensation for the grounding of 737 Max jetliners after fatal crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia.

Two of three major state-owned carriers—Air China Ltd. and China Southern Airlines Ltd.—said Wednesday they want compensation for their aircraft being grounded. The third, China Eastern Airlines Ltd., announced a similar request last month.

China is, along with North America and Europe, one of the biggest markets for jetliners. That makes its response critical for Boeing.

It was among the first countries to ground the 737 Max in March following crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed a total of 346 people.

Investigators have suggested a flight-control system was to blame for both 737 Max crashes.

"We must use punishment and tell the Americans their practice of using concealment and fraud to extract benefits from others, while benefiting themselves, is unfair," said the Global Times newspaper, which is published by the ruling Communist Party and known for its nationalistic tone.

Air China, which has 15 of the 737 Max jets, also wants compensation for delays in aircraft deliveries, an employee of its publicity department said. He declined to give his name or details of the claim.

China Southern wants compensation for disruption due to being unable to use its 737 Max planes, said an employee of its publicity department. He would give only his surname, Wang.

It's unclear how many flights have been disrupted.

The country's aviation regulator said in April any changes in design or training will be "fully evaluated" based on the results of investigations into fatal 737 MAX crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

That suggested Beijing wants to examine and approve any changes instead of relying on Boeing or the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

China is one of nine countries represented on an FAA review panel, along with Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

"Let everyone participate to show you aren't cheating," said Guangcha.com, a news website.

Boeing estimates Chinese carriers will buy 7,700 jetliners over the next two decades.

The Chinese government alternates orders between Boeing and Airbus in order to maintain competition and hold down prices.

A state-owned manufacturer also is developing a Chinese competitor to the 737 and Airbus's A320.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,776.61	2,856.27	7,750.84
−100.72	−8.09	−34.88
.039%	0.28%	0.45%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4549	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8486	Russian Ruble	64.3723
British Pound	0.7912	Indian Rupee	68.8285	Singapore Dollar	1.3806
Canadian Dollar	1.3443	Japanese Yen	110.2770	South Korean Won	1168.90
Chinese Yuan	6.7912	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1453	Swiss Franc	1.0082
Euro	0.8969	New Zealand Dollar	1.5402	Taiwan Dollar	30.9697
		Philippine Peso	51.4509	Thailand Baht	31.9325

Nation

Rallies for and against abortion fire up around the South

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Abortion opponents held a rally Wednesday at the Alabama Capitol, savoring victory after the state's governor signed the nation's most stringent abortion ban into law last week.

Elsewhere in the South, abortion-rights supporters occupied much of a city block in New Orleans, chanting 'My body! My choice!"

Standing in front of the banner, "Pro-Life Pro-Woman," speakers said the law passed in Alabama — and fetal heartbeat laws in others states — show they are gaining momentum in the fight against abortion.

"Today, we are gathered to celebrate the historic stand that the state of Alabama has taken for human life," Kristan Hawkins of Students for Life of America said.

"Today we gather to say enough is enough. For too long the violence and tragedy of abortion has destroyed my generation," Hawkins said.

Gov. Kay Ivey signed the legislation last week that would make it a felony, punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison to perform an abortion. The law allows no exceptions for rape and incest.

Governors in Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia have approved bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can happen as early as the sixth week of pregnancy.

None of the laws has actually taken effect, and all are expected to be blocked by the courts as the legal challenges play out with an ultimate eye on the Supreme Court.

But abortion opponents said the wave of state action is encouraging.

"This is the beginning of the end and the other side knows it," said Elizabeth Parker, minority outreach coordinator for Students for Life.

Rally speakers included women who regretted abortions, a man whose birth mother refused to have an abortion after a rape and a rape survivor.

A counterdemonstrator interrupted the rally repeatedly shouting "forced birth extremists" at the group who shouted back "pro-woman, pro-life." He was later lead away in handcuffs by state police after cursing during the confrontation.

Opponents of Alabama's abortion law had held a large rally at the Alabama Capitol on Sunday while simultaneous marches were held in Huntsville and Birmingham.

Meanwhile in New Orleans, supporters of abortion rights spilled into a street Wednesday after about an hour of speeches and unified chanting that included, "My body! My choice!"

Amy Irvin, executive director of the New Orleans Abortion Fund, an agency that funds abortions for those who cannot afford them, spoke against anti-abortion measures moving through Louisiana's legislative session, including one nearing final passage that could ban the procedure as early as the sixth week of pregnancy.

"Most women don't even know they're pregnant. Why? Because we don't have comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education in this state," she said, drawing cheers from the crowd.

Tony Carubba, a male protester holding a sign that read, "A Woman's Body A Woman's Choice," called the move to ban abortions "ridiculous."

"No man should tell a woman what to do with her body," he said.

AP

Beck Gerritson, president of Eagle Forum of Alabama, speaks at an anti-abortion rally outside the Capitol in Montgomery, Ala., on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

ACROSS THE NATION

Army veteran indicted in California bomb plot against rally

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A U.S. grand jury on Wednesday indicted an Army veteran in a plot to plant a bomb at a rally by white supremacists in California. The indictment charged 26-year-old Mark Domingo with providing material support to terrorists and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, the U.S. attorney's office said. His public defender, David Wasserman, declined to comment on the charges. Domingo was arrested last month. Investigators said he wanted to kill people at a Nazi rally that was planned in Long Beach but didn't happen. Domingo discussed several types of attacks with an informant that included targeting Jews, churches and police, court papers said. He also spouted about violent jihad in online forums, according to court documents that spell out online chats and conversations recorded over two months. Domingo posted an online message March 3 saying. "America needs another Vegas event," an apparent reference to the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 59 people, documents show.

Girl, 10, 6th known child to die after US border detention

HOUSTON (AP)—U.S. authorities say a 10-year-old girl from El Salvador died last year after being detained by border authorities in a previously unreported case. The death marks the sixth known case in the last year. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said Wednesday that she died on Sept. 29 at an Omaha, Nebraska, hospital of fever and respiratory distress. Spokesman Mark Weber said the department began caring for the unidentified girl in March 2018. Weber said the girl was "medically fragile," with a history of congenital heart defects. He did not say when she entered the U.S. or whether a parent or adult accompanied her. HHS provides care to children the government considers unaccompanied. The deaths of immigrant children in U.S. government custody have sparked calls for investigations and changes to Trump administration policy. Weber said the department was committed to protecting the children in its custody.

Claim seeks $45M for incapacitated woman who gave birth

PHOENIX (AP)—Lawyers for an incapacitated woman who later gave birth at a Phoenix long-term care facility have filed a $45 million notice of claim against the state, saying she may have been impregnated before. The claim, which is a precursor to a lawsuit, also alleges the woman was raped repeatedly before giving birth last December. A former licensed practical nurse at Hacienda Healthcare has been charged with sexually assaulting the 29-year-old woman, who has been in long-term care since age 3 after suffering a near-drowning. She gave birth to a boy at the facility on Dec. 29. Employees said they had no idea she was pregnant. The claim seeks a $25 million settlement for the victim and $10 million for each of her parents within 60 days or the lawyers will take the case to court. The office of Gov. Doug Ducey said Wednesday night that it had received the 55-page notice of claim and would be reviewing it while the Arizona Department of Health Services said it doesn't comment on pending or ongoing litigation.

Rivers rising in waterlogged central US; more rain to come

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Waterlogged parts of the central U.S. braced Wednesday for more rain, following days of severe storms that have battered Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma and caused at least three deaths.

Authorities urged residents of several small towns in Oklahoma and Kansas to leave their homes as rivers and streams rose. In the Missouri capital of Jefferson City, the mayor issued a mandatory evacuation for an area involving a handful of homes. The city's airport also has been evacuated.

The Arkansas River was approaching historic highs, while the already high Missouri and Mississippi Rivers were again rising after a multi-day stretch of storms that produced dozens of tornadoes. Forecasters predicted parts of Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas could see more severe weather Wednesday night into Thursday.

"The biggest concern is more rain," Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said during a news conference following an aerial tour with Tulsa Mayor G.W. Bynum and other officials Wednesday morning.

The deluge inundated roadways, closing highways in 22 Oklahoma counties and 17 Kansas counties, along with more than 330 Missouri roads. Amtrak suspended train service Wednesday and Thursday along a route between St. Louis and Kansas City because of congestion and flood-related delays.

The Arkansas River, which was just above 37 feet (11 meters), or 9 feet (2.74 meters) above flood stage, at Muskogee, Oklahoma, was expected to eventually reach 43.5 feet (13.26 meters). Officials encouraged residents in several communities along the river to leave their homes.

But Bynum, Tulsa's mayor, said his city of more than 400,000 people was safe so far.

"The levee system is working the way it's supposed to right now," he said.

Near Crescent, about 34 miles (55 kilometers) north of Oklahoma City, erosion left several homes hanging over the swollen Cimarron River. One unoccupied home rolled into the river Tuesday, and authorities say others could collapse.

More than 9 inches (23 centimeters) of rain has fallen since Sunday in parts of Oklahoma after an already rainy spring.

"Any rainfall we get just continues to saturate the soils that are already saturated. Especially rivers and streams," said Oklahoma State Climatologist Gary McManus.

"There is simply nowhere for this water to go" as it flows downstream from Kansas, according to McManus.

In Kansas, residents in parts of the city of Iola, along the Neosho River, were being urged to evacuate and officials had set up on emergency shelter at a community college, said Corey Schinstock, assistant city administrator. If the river reaches its predicted crest of 27.8 feet (8.47 meters) Thursday, it would be the second-worst flood ever for the town of about 5,400 residents.

Asia

6 die in Indonesia riots, Widodo says he won't allow unrest

AP
Fire crackers explode near supporters of presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto during clashes with the police in Jakarta, Indonesia, Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian President Joko Widodo said authorities have the volatile situation in the country's capital under control after six people died Wednesday in riots by supporters of his losing rival in last month's presidential election.

The clashes began Tuesday night when supporters of former Gen. Prabowo Subianto tried to force their way into the downtown offices of the election supervisory agency and continued unabated until ebbing on Wednesday evening. More than two dozen vehicles were burned as rioters took over neighborhoods in central Jakarta, throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at police who responded with tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets.

Flanked by the military chief and other top leaders, a grim-looking Widodo said, "I will work together with anyone to advance this country, but I will not tolerate anyone who disrupts the security, democratic processes and unity of our beloved nation."

Subianto, an ultra-nationalist politician, has refused to accept the official results of the April 17 election and instead declared himself the winner. The Election Commission on Tuesday said Widodo, the first Indonesian president from outside the Jakarta elite, had won 55.5% of the vote, securing the moderate technocrat a second term as leader of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

Subianto, an elite figure from a wealthy family connected to former dictator Suharto, also lost to Widodo in 2014. He has made four unsuccessful bids for the presidency since Suharto was ousted in 1998.

"The bottom line is the people who are protesting and rioting in the past 24 hours represent a small minority of Indonesian voters and a small minority of Indonesian Muslims," said Alexander Arifanto, an Indonesian politics expert at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

"The vast majority of both clearly accepted the election results. By tacitly backing the protesters, Prabowo has lost any remaining legitimacy he had left and clearly shows his true colors as a narcissistic New Order-era relic," Arifanto said, referring to the Suharto era.

Rudiantara, the communications and information technology minister, said social media including Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp will be restricted on a temporary basis to prevent the spread of hoaxes and inflammatory content. He said messaging systems will still work for text and audio but photos and videos will be blocked or slowed.

National police chief Tito Karnavian said the people who died in the rioting were hit by gunshots or blunt devices. Authorities are still investigating the causes of death and are not ruling out the involvement of third parties acting as provocateurs.

"There are attempts to create martyrs, blaming security officials for building public anger," he said.

The rioting in the capital was planned and not spontaneous and many of those arrested had come from outside Jakarta, according to police. Officers found an ambulance filled with stones, and some of more than 250 people arrested had envelopes containing 250,000-500,000 rupiah ($17-$34), said Jakarta police chief Argo Yuwono. The minimum wage in Jakarta is about $9 a day.

The government had deployed some 50,000 police and soldiers in Jakarta in anticipation of protests following the official election results. Many residents have left the city and parts of the downtown are closed to traffic, with the election supervisory agency and Election Commission barricaded with razor wire.

Canada to remove trash from Philippines by end of June

TORONTO (AP)—Canada said Wednesday that by the end of June it will remove truckloads of garbage which Filipino officials say were illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago.

Canadian Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said the government has awarded a contract to French shipping giant Bollore Logistics Canada that calls for the return of 69 containers filled with household waste and electronic garbage.

"The company will begin preparation for shipping in the coming days. The removal will be complete by the end of June, as the waste must be safely treated to meet Canadian safety and health requirements," McKenna's department said in a statement.

The trash is expected to be back in Canada by the end of summer.

Salvador Panelo, a spokesman for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, held a news conference earlier Wednesday to announce that Duterte has ordered officials to look for a private shipping company to transport the garbage to Canadian territory in an escalation of his increasingly adversarial stance.

"If Canada will not accept their trash, we will leave the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores," Panelo said. "The president's stance is as principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines as an independent sovereign nation must not be treated as trash by other foreign nations."

The Philippine government recalled its ambassador and consuls in Canada last week over Ottawa's failure to comply with a May 15 deadline to take back the garbage.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that Canada has been working hard with Philippine officials to resolve the problem and hoped to strike a resolution quickly though he gave no time frame.

In 2017, Trudeau said legal issues preventing the return of the garbage to Canada had been resolved. "This is a situation that is unacceptable and has gone on too long," Trudeau said Wednesday.

Canada is also looking at ways to hold the responsible parties to account.

At least 103 containers of household trash, including plastic bottles and bags, newspapers and diapers, were shipped in batches from Canada to the Philippines from 2013 to 2014. Thirty-four were already dealt with by Filipino authorities. Most of the other 69 containers are in two ports in Manila and northern Subic Freeport, sparking protests from environmental activists.

Philippine officials say all the containers were falsely declared by a private firm as recyclable plastic scraps and asked Canada to take back the garbage.

Duterte raised the garbage issue in a speech last month while officials from both countries were already discussing a resolution. The volatile president said he was ready to "declare war" against Canada over the issue.

ASIAN BRIEFS

North Korea calls Biden 'fool of low IQ' over Kim criticism

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has labeled Joe Biden a "fool of low IQ" and an "imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being" after the U.S. presidential hopeful called North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a tyrant during a recent speech. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency on Wednesday said the former American vice president had insulted the country's supreme leadership and committed an "intolerable and serious politically-motivated provocation" against the North. Biden during a campaign launch in Philadelphia on Saturday accused President Donald Trump of cozying up to "dictators and tyrants" like Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin. "What he uttered is just sophism of an imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being, let alone a politician," KCNA said. The piece, labeled a commentary, said Biden had "gone reckless and senseless, seized by ambition for power." It went on to mention apparent Biden gaffes, such as once appearing to fall asleep during a speech by President Barack Obama.

Pope urges China's Catholics to unify after bishop deal

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis is urging China's divided Catholic community to come together in communion, as he seeks to heal decades of estrangement following a landmark deal with Beijing over bishop nominations. Francis made a special appeal at the end of his weekly audience Wednesday, noting that May 24 is a feast day in China dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Francis praised China's Catholics, "who among daily difficulties and effort, continue to believe, hope and love." He urged them to be witnesses of charity and fraternity "always remaining united in the communion of the universal church." China's estimated 12 million Catholics are split between those belonging to the official church and an underground church loyal to the pope. The 2018 deal seeks to unify them and bring all Chinese bishops into communion.

Ex-Philippine judge says she was held at Hong Kong airport

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A former Philippine Supreme Court justice who accused Chinese President Xi Jinping of crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court said she was barred for hours Tuesday from entering Hong Kong. Conchita Carpio-Morales said she was stopped by immigration authorities and was held in a room at Hong Kong's airport for about four hours and ordered to take a flight back to Manila. She had planned to take a vacation for five days in Hong Kong with her husband, son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, who were all allowed entry. Hong Kong airport and immigration officials later told her "there was a mistake" and that she could proceed with her trip to Hong Kong, but she and her family had already decided to return home because of the incident, she said. "I have never been subjected to this kind of humiliation," Carpio-Morales told The Associated Press by telephone while waiting for her flight back to Manila. She said she and her family did not want to take the risk of being subjected to further scrutiny.

World

Supreme leader criticizes Iran's politicians amid US tension

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's supreme leader publicly chastised the country's moderate president and foreign minister Wednesday, saying he disagreed with the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal they had negotiated with world powers.

The extraordinary comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the first time he's criticized both politicians by name, came amid tensions with the United States a year after Washington's withdrawal from the accord.

Khamenei has final say on all matters of state, and his blaming the deal's unraveling limits the influence of President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif—relative moderates within Iran's Shiite theocracy who had struck the deal.

It also shows the growing power of hard-liners.

The White House earlier this month sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the region over a still-unexplained threat it perceived from Iran.

Since that development, Iran has announced it will back away from the atomic accord. The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, alleged that four oil tankers were sabotaged off its coast, and Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen have launched drone attacks into Saudi Arabia.

Both Washington and Tehran have said they want to ease heightened tensions in the region in recent days. But many fear a miscalculation between the two countries, who have a 40-year history of mistrust, could escalate the situation. On Thursday, U.S. officials say the Pentagon will brief the White House on plans to send up to 10,000 additional troops to the Middle East. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as the plans had yet to be formally announced.

Khamenei made the comments before hard-line students gathered for a Ramadan lecture. For years, hard-liners have criticized the accord for giving too much away to the West.

Khamenei had given his implicit stamp of approval on the deal, which when signed sparked spontaneous celebrations across Iran. The accord saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions.

But the deal has unraveled after Trump's withdrawal, with the U.S. re-imposing old sanctions and coming up with even stricter new ones.

"To some extent, I did not believe in the way that the nuclear deal was implemented," Khamenei said, according to his official website. "Many times I reminded both the president and the foreign minister."

Khamenei has previously warned the West, especially the U.S., wasn't trustworthy. But he hasn't named the country's top elected politician and his top diplomat before Wednesday night. He's previously said the two had done the best they could.

Even before Trump became president and later withdrew from the deal, there were concerns in Washington that the supreme leader might turn on the agreement if the envisioned sanctions relief fell short of what Tehran expected.

In this picture released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting with governmental officials in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, May 14, 2019. AP

For that reason, the Obama administration dispatched senior officials to Europe, Asia and elsewhere to explain to foreign governments and countries what was permitted.

Former Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew each encouraged foreign investors to do business with Iran so that the benefits of the deal would be apparent to the Iranian people.

Since Trump's pullout last year and the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions in November, remaining parties to the deal have been unable to keep up the pace of relief and Iran's economy has been significantly harmed, notably because of the loss of revenue from oil exports and the risk of incurring U.S. penalties that has dissuaded international companies from opening shop in Iran.

The role of the supreme leader within Iranian society, while overseeing its elected representatives, is spiritual rather than political. Khamenei acknowledged that in his speech Wednesday night, saying the gravity of the situation called on him to speak.

"Our belief is that the leadership should not enter into the executive issues, unless if it affects the entire revolution," Khamenei said.

There was no immediate comment from either Rouhani, who is serving his second four-year term as president, or Zarif.

Khamenei did not directly address the ongoing tensions, which include a heightened U.S. naval presence in the region. However, during his appearance with the students, one came up to Khamenei with a painting of Revolutionary Guard soldier credited with laying mines targeting U.S.-escorted oil tankers in the Persian Gulf during Iran's 1980s war with Iraq. The Guard says he was killed in a confrontation with the U.S. Navy.

Suicide car bomb kills at least 9 in Somalia's capital

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Islamic extremists exploded a suicide car bomb near the presidential palace in Somalia's capital Wednesday, killing at least nine people, including former Foreign Minister Hussein Elabe Fahiye, who was an adviser to the current president.

Capt. Mohamed Hussein told The Associated Press that an additional 13 people were wounded and most of the casualties were soldiers.

The Somalia-based extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the blast in Mogadishu, saying it targeted vehicles carrying government officials.

The car bomb exploded at a security checkpoint near the presidential palace as soldiers were conducting security checks on vehicles on the main road. A white column of smoke rose over the seaside city as gunfire rang out and people scattered.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab frequently carries out such blasts in the capital near the presidential compound and at hotels frequented by government officials and foreigners.

"In the past I was wounded in this area, and again today my daughter has been killed in this attack which also destroyed my home. This is terrible," witness Madey Ahmed told the AP.

Ukraine's parliament snubs new president on election law

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian lawmakers on Wednesday turned down the new president's proposal to amend the election law in a blow to his hopes to get more of his supporters into parliament.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy, a 41-year-old comedian who won 73% of the presidential vote last month, dissolved parliament on Tuesday, saying that current lawmakers were too focused on self-enrichment and lacked public trust.

Zelenskiy, who became famous for playing the role of a Ukrainian president in a popular TV sitcom, was gambling that his popularity will allow his party to make a successful showing in the parliamentary vote set for July 21.

His landslide victory reflected Ukrainians' exasperation with the country's economic woes and rampant corruption.

Zelenskiy proposed changes to the electoral law to have the next parliament elected entirely on party lists, arguing that the current system in which part of the legislature is elected in single-ballot races foments graft.

But lawmakers refused to consider Zelenskiy's proposal. Former President Petro Poroshenko's allies favor the current election system, hoping that it will help them keep their seats.

Zelenskiy criticized his foes and urged voters to elect a new generation of politicians.

"The old politicians chose the old system because it gives them a chance to extend their political existence," he said on Facebook. "They hope to sneak back into the Verkhovna Rada, but I'm sure they are mistaken and you will elect the new politicians capable of changing the country in deeds, not words."

Zelenskiy's envoy to parliament, Ruslan Stefanchuk, accused lawmakers of breaking a deal on changing the electoral law he said had been agreed the day before.

"I hope that there is still some time left to force Verkhovna Rada to do its work," he said.

Rada speaker Andriy Parubiy denounced Zelenskiy's decree disbanding parliament as unconstitutional, saying that lawmakers will challenge it in courts.

Zelenskiy's supporters have rejected the claim, saying that parliament long had lacked a majority coalition—a legitimate reason for its dissolution.

The parliamentary election was originally scheduled for Oct. 27. That would have left Zelenskiy facing a parliament dominated by his political opponents and unable to pursue his agenda for months.

Zelenskiy's top campaign pledge was to bring peace to eastern Ukraine, where government troops have been fighting Russia-backed separatists for five years in a conflict that has left at least 13,000 dead.

Lawyer Andriy Bohdan, whom Zelenskiy named his chief of staff, said in televised comments Tuesday that a possible peace deal with Russia must be put to a referendum.

Poroshenko strongly criticized the idea, that such a referendum would "threaten Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Off the Wall

In this May 14, 2019 photo, a nearly complete lower jaw bone with worn down teeth of an adult mastodon is displayed, at the University of Iowa Paleontology Repository on the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City, Iowa. AP

Teen finds prehistoric mastodon jaw

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—A teen searching for arrowheads in southern Iowa found something much bigger: the prehistoric jawbone of a mastodon.

The Iowa City Press-Citizen reports that the 30-inch bone belonged to a juvenile mastodon, an elephant-like animal believed to have roamed Iowa some 34,000 years ago.

Officials with the University of Iowa Paleontology Repository, which now has possession of the bone found last week, say the mastodon might have stood around 7-feet tall.

The farmers who donated the jaw and related bones to the repository did so anonymously, saying they didn't want to encourage people to trespass on their property looking for fossils.

There likely are more fossils on the land, as the owners found other mastodon remains there decades ago.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Theodore M. Manglona Sr.

Lovingly known as "Ted"

Born on March 31, 1960 • Called to eternal life on May 18, 2019

In his new life, he will be joining his:

Parents: Benjamin T. and Magdalena M. Manglona
Grandparents: Pedro A. and Rosalina M. Manglona
Prudencio M. and Maria T. Manglona
Son: Jude A. Atalig
Brother: Thomas M. Manglona
Sister: Marie M. Apatang
Father-in-law: Vicente Ayuyu Atalig
Brother-in-law: Harvey T. Atalig

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Jennifer Apatang Atalig Manglona
Children/Grandchildren: Joshua Wayne & Daphne Leon Guerrero (Alana, Troy)
Debra Lee Leon Guerrero & Kyle Dungan (Xavier)
Benjamin John Leon Guerrero & Ken Simmons
Casey Marie Leon Guerrero
Kaydee A. Manglona & James C. Manglona II (Kody)
Theodore A. Manglona Jr.
Theora Yvonne A. Manglona & Brandon M. Cabrera
James A. Atalig
Stepmother: Maria R. Manglona
Uncle/Auntie: Antonio T. & Engracia O. Manglona
Mother-in-Law: Consolacion Apatang Atalig
Brothers/Sisters-in-Laws: †Thomas M. & Laura I. Manglona, children and family
Lillian M. & Roman B. Matsumoto, children and family
Rebecca M. & Jesus I. Taisague, children and family
†Marie M. & Alexander A. Apatang, daughter and family
Joana M. & Juan P. San Nicolas, children and family
Benjamin M. & Sandra C. Manglona, children and family
Harold M. & Miranda V. Manglona, children and family
Debra M. Diaz & Marshall R. Fisco Jr., children and family
Selina M. & Jesse C. Mesa, children and family
Freska Bree R. Manglona
Maximo R. & Rosali Muna & daughter
Fanny R. Muna & Wells San Nicolas & children
Frankie R. Muna & Angie Ana M. Hocog & children
Brothers/Sisters-in-Laws: Julie Ann A. & †Harvey T. Atalig, children & family
Edwin F. & Laureen Dlc. Atalig, children & family
Sharon A. & Prudencio Jr. A. Manglona, children & family
Brad Lee A. Atalig
Yvonne & Godel Omengabar
Vicente Jr. & Tina T. Atalig, children & family

Theodore will also be missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Daily mass is being said at San Isidro Church, Sinapalo and San Francisco de Borja Church, Songsong, Rota at 6:00 a.m.
Daily mass is being offered at Saint Jude Church (Saipan) at 6:00 p.m. except Saturday (5:30 p.m.) and Sunday (8:00 a.m.) Nightly rosary at San Isidro Church, Sinapalo, Rota at 7:00 p.m.
His remains will arrive from the Philippines at Saipan International Airport, on May 24th at 8:15 a.m. which will be escorted to Borja Funeral Homes.
On Monday, May 27th a public viewing is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Borja Funeral Homes.
His remains will leave Saipan to Rota at 2:00 p.m.
On Tuesday, May 28th, his remains will be escorted from Rota Health Center to San Francisco de Borja Church, Songsong, Rota.
Responso and recitation of the holy rosary will be said followed by visitation and last respect.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by interment services at San Jose Cemetery, Rota, where he will be laid to rest.

Un Dagkulo Si Yu'us Ma'asé, Thank you very much for your thoughts and prayers.

Jennifer, children and family

My kind of mix-up: $5,760 bottle of wine served by mistake

LONDON (AP)—A British restaurant has given some customers an unexpected treat, accidentally serving them a 4,500-pound ($5,760) bottle of red wine.

The Hawksmoor Manchester said on Twitter it hoped the diners "enjoyed your evening" after getting the 2001 bottle of Chateau le Pin Pomerol instead of the 260-pound ($333) bottle they had ordered of Chateau Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2001.

A restaurant spokeswoman says "it was a very busy night at the restaurant and a very simple mistake. A member of staff picked up the wrong bottle" of Bordeaux. The restaurant told the employee that "one-off mistakes happen" and added "we love you anyway."

The report sparked a flurry of amused responses on Twitter, with many people asking for a table served by the same waiter and others praising Hawksmoor for its comments to its employee.

Tasting notes for Chateau le Pin Pomerol on wineinvestment.com note the wine's deep ruby/plum/purple color and read: "A tremendous effort ... an extraordinary perfume of creme de cassis, cherry liqueur, plums, licorice, caramel and sweet toast."

Spray foam-encased kitten rescued by Oregon garbage worker

HILLSBORO, Ore. (AP)—A kitten that was found encased in hardened spray foam is expected to make a full recovery after being rescued from a garbage can by an Oregon sanitation worker, authorities said Thursday.

The sanitation worker was using a hydraulic arm to empty a trash can near Hillsboro, Oregon, but the can wouldn't empty, said Washington County sheriff's Deputy Brian van Kleef.

The man peered inside and saw the kitten hanging from the can upside down by its back legs, he said. Its head and paws were covered in hard, white foam but it managed to meow, van Kleef said.

The sanitation worker took the kitten to his company offices and he and others used razors to cut off as much foam as they could and then took the animal to a veterinarian.

"That cat is really lucky and we're lucky that he actually took the time to check it out," said van Kleef, who added that the kitten's abuse is being treated as an animal cruelty case. It's not clear who covered the kitten in foam; there have been no arrests

The cleaned up kitten is resting in an animal shelter until he makes a full recovery.

He will be returned to his owners, who are not suspects. Van Kleef said the owners have several barn cats and the kitten was from a recent litter.

"The owners expressed interest in getting the cat back so they will probably get him back, although there's a long list of people who want him," he said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Unwanted: Grenade found in Goodwill store's donation bin

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida Goodwill store got a donation it didn't need or expect—a grenade. The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office said workers found the grenade in a donation bin Wednesday afternoon and called 911. TCPalm reports that the bomb squad arrived and the Port St. Lucie store was evacuated. The grenade was found to be inoperable. A similar grenade was found at a nearby Goodwill store last year.

Van passenger impaled by tripod on California freeway

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say somebody stole a tripod from a California Department of Transportation crew and then dropped it from an overpass onto a Sacramento freeway, impaling the lung of a passenger in a van. The driver of the van, Tim Page, tells KCRA-TV that he was on Interstate 5 Thursday morning when the yellow-and-red tripod smashed through the glass. He says it went through his passenger's lung and popped out. The man survived but with broken ribs and a partially punctured lung. Authorities say a 32-year-old man they suspect threw the tripod was arrested on a warrant but may face a charge of attempted murder. Page volunteers with El Dorado Veteran Resources and had picked up his passenger, another veteran, from the airport.

Retrial planned for man who broke $4.5M statue's thumb

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Federal prosecutors plan to retry a Delaware man who admitted he broke a thumb off a $4.5 million statue at a Philadelphia museum. Philly.com reports prosecutors told a judge Thursday they're refiling charges against Michael Rohana for theft and concealment of an object of cultural heritage. A jury deadlocked in the case last month after Rohana's lawyer argued he hadn't been charged under the right law. Rohana was attending a Christmas-themed ugly sweater party at the Franklin Institute when he entered a closed exhibit of ancient Chinese terra cotta warrior statues. Authorities say Rohana snapped the thumb of a statute called "The Cavalryman" and left with it. The incident was captured by surveillance cameras. Rohana told jurors it was a stupid, drunken mistake. The vandalism outraged Chinese officials.

6-week-old kitten rescued from Cupertino storm drain

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in the San Francisco Bay Area have rescued a 6-week-old kitten from a storm drain. A woman walking in Cupertino heard meowing and looked down to see the tiny ball of fur at the bottom of the drain Tuesday morning. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office says members of the San Jose Fire Department lifted the heavy metal grating on the drain and a deputy jumped down to rescue the orange and white calico. The tiny kitten was examined and fed and will be held at an animal shelter for possible adoption.

Bird lays eggs on fake turf, displacing soccer teams for now

TEANECK, N.J. (AP)—A little birdie has displaced soccer players in New Jersey. The Record reports that a killdeer laid its eggs about two weeks ago on a patch of synthetic grass near the south goal in Teaneck's Votee Park. Public works employees have cordoned off the nest with cones and yellow tape. It could take one to two months for the eggs to hatch and the chicks to leave the nest. Soccer teams are using alternative fields for the time being. Killdeer are not a threatened species but are protected under the American Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Canadian Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Science & Technology

In gender-swap photo filters, some trans people see therapy

NEW YORK (AP)—Hit a button, and you're "transformed" into a woman. The beard disappears. The face and jaw smooth out. The hair floats jauntily around the shoulders.

"Yo this is SPOT ON my mom." "Pretty." "Are you in a sorority?"

A swipe and another click. Suddenly you're a square-jawed man—heavy of brow, sporting five o' clock shadow.

"I look like my brother Jay." "Hahahaha Suzie I'm dyingggg." "My sisters were like, 'um... strange. You're kinda hot' haha."

The gender-bending selfies accompanied by flip or sarcastic comments are flooding social feeds since Snapchat introduced a filter this month allowing users to swap gender appearances with the tap of a finger. But for many people who have longed for a button that would change them in real life, the portrait parade isn't a game.

"My gender's not a costume," says Bailey Coffman, a 31-year-old transgender woman from New York. "This story that I feel is very real. I lost a lot to be who I am, and I fought really hard for the body that I'm in.

"And when certain people post it and write about how silly it is and how goofy they look with this filter," she says, "it makes light of the transgender experience."

She and others, though, do see possibility in the pastime.

Some argue that the filter, which Snapchat calls a "lens," could be a therapeutic tool that leads to self-discovery and even helps ease the transition of people struggling with gender identity once they see who they could become.

"There are people who haven't found themselves yet, and this is a great way to say 'This is really affirming for me' and to take that next step," says Savannah Daniels, 32, a military veteran living in Baltimore. She says she realized she identified as female after watching episodes of "RuPaul's Drag Race" while serving in Afghanistan as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Navy.

Snapchat is not the first face-altering app with such a feature; FaceApp, for instance, has had one for years. But users of the Snapchat filter unveiled the second week of May have noted its high quality. And, of course, the very popularity of Snapchat amplifies the feature further.

Snapchat's maker, Snap Inc., which has drawn criticism for a Bob Marley filter some likened to blackface and another that overlaid stereotypically Asian features on users' photos, commented about its filter in an emailed statement.

"We understand that identity is deeply personal," the company said. "As we have and continue to explore the possibilities of this technology, our Lens design team is working ... to ensure that on the whole these Lenses are diverse and inclusive by providing a wide range of transformative effects."

Coffman

Jessie Daniels (no relation to Savannah Daniels), a City University of New York professor and an expert in digital sociology, says that for people unfamiliar with the concept of gender as fluid—not innate and not binary; that is, not strictly male or female—such filters can be both radical and transformative.

"They get a chance to play with gender in a way that many of us who are LGBTQ have played with gender our whole lifetimes and understand the social construct part of it," she says.

That could be meaningful for youths reckoning with gender identity or, she says, just for putting the notion of gender fluidity on youngsters' radar. A survey last year by Common Sense Media found that 44% of teenagers use Snapchat as their primary social app.

"I do hope this does help some people better recognize their gender," says Elliott "Ellie" Wheeler, a 16-year-old sophomore at Michigan's East Lansing High School who, combining the words female and butch, identifies as a "futch" lesbian.

Because most of her social media contact comes with trans people, she says, she hasn't seen much use of the Snapchat filter. But she also doesn't hold the company responsible for any controversy.

TECHNOLOGY BRIEFS

Postal Service tests mail shipments on self-driving trucks

PHOENIX (AP)—A self-driving truck company has partnered with the U.S. Postal Service to test autonomous technology on the long-haul route between Phoenix and Dallas. San Diego-based TuSimple is planning for two autonomous trucks to carry mail and parcels on five round trips between the Postal Service distribution centers in the two cities starting Tuesday. TuSimple says a safety engineer and a driver will be on board to monitor the trucks during the two-week pilot program. The trucks use a camera system allowing the vehicles to view about 3,280 feet (1,000 meters) ahead. The company says the Postal Service has contracted TuSimple to examine if the technology could reduce fuel costs, increase safety and improve fleet operation.

Is Siri sexist? UN cautions against biased voice assistants

NEW YORK (AP)—Are the female voices behind Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa amplifying gender bias around the world? The United Nations thinks so. A report released Wednesday by the UN's culture and science organization raises concerns about what it describes as the "hardwired subservience" built into default female-voiced assistants operated by Apple, Amazon, Google and Microsoft. The report is called "I'd Blush If I Could." It's a reference to an answer Apple's Siri gives after hearing sexist insults from users. It says it's a problem that millions of people are getting accustomed to commanding female-voiced assistants that are "servile, obedient and unfailingly polite," even when confronted with harassment from humans. The agency recommends tech companies stop making digital assistants female by default and program them to discourage gender-based insults and abusive language.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
†Eugenio Arriola Borja
Lovingly known as
"Enu Tuhu"
Date of Birth: December 13, 1928
Called to eternal life: May 13, 2019
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Thank You
Olomwaay
For everything, there is a reason. And for every reason, a season. He taught his family the Power of Love, a love reflected no only in his words but in his unselfish acts. A simple man, he leaves us with an eternal season of love in our hearts. We thank our heavenly father for a blessed life of love, laughter, and happiness with our beloved "Enu Tuhu".
The tears have dried, the flowers have withered, but your presence with us at the daily Eucharistic Celebrations, the nightly rosaries, the funeral services of our beloved has given us the courage to endure the pain and our great loss. Because of his passing, a new life has begun. His new life with his Creator, and our new life – a life in which we have created new acquaintances, making new friends and developing a strong bond with families. Because of these, we are forever grateful for the memories you have instilled in us.
A beautiful and meaningful services for our beloved †Eugenio would have not been possible without the unselfish help and assistance of families and friends. No words can precisely express our heartfelt gratitude for all you've done for us.
Un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Thank you, Olomwaay
Giwen I Familia

Life & Style

Making history: Rihanna launches brand Fenty in Paris store

By THOMAS ADAMSON
AP FASHION WRITER

PARIS (AP)—Rihanna, the first black woman in history to head up a major Parisian luxury house, is unveiling her first fashion designs for Fenty at a pop-up store in Paris.

The collection, named after the singer-turned-designer's last name, comprises ready-to-wear, footwear, accessories, and eyewear and is available for sale Paris' Le Marais area from Friday and will debut online May 29.

"This is a moment in history," Rihanna, 31, said at a preview of the store in a white structure tuxedo dress. "It's a big deal for me and my entire generation."

News of the singer's groundbreaking new deal with LVMH, the world's largest luxury group, shook up the fashion industry earlier this month.

The Barbados-born star's lines are the second time LVMH has created an original brand.

But the move also acknowledges the fashion industry of today considers a major popstar can have as much to say in fashion design as established and trained designers such as Nicolas Ghesquiere of Louis Vuitton, or even the lauded Alber Elbaz, formerly of Lanvin, who is out of work.

Fenty has been heralded by some critics as the first major house of the Instagram age.

Fenty says the brand will be based in Paris, like its parent company, conglomerate LVMH, but will operate from a digital flagship on a "See-Now-Wear-Now" model forgoing to usual luxury fashion seasonal previewed designs.

Singer Rihanna, the first black woman in history to head up a major Parisian luxury house, poses as she unveiled her first fashion designs for Fenty at a pop-up store in Paris, France, Wednesday, May 22, 2019.
AP

"They were flexible enough to allow me to have a different perspective on the way I wanted to release things," she said. "Coming from such a traditional background in fashion (as LVMH), you don't think there's another way that will work and they allowed me to do that."

It's expected to capitalize on the acclaim received by her most popular luxury venture Fenty Beauty line in 2017—which some said revolutionized the makeup industry by celebrating diversity by showcasing foundations in 40 shades.

If she looks calm, "it's a facade," acknowledged the star when faced with the expectations before the historic launch.

"There's pressure every single second," she said. "It's not like crumbling pressure, but it's like 'you better get it good girl.'"

Celebrity chef Mario Batali facing assault charge in Boston

BOSTON (AP)—Celebrity chef Mario Batali is facing a criminal charge on allegations that he forcibly kissed and groped a woman at a Boston restaurant in 2017.

Batali, who recently gave up financial stakes in all his restaurants, is scheduled to be arraigned Friday on a charge of indecent assault and battery, a spokeswoman for Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins said.

It's the first criminal charge against Batali resulting from several sexual harassment and assault allegations that crippled his career amid the #MeToo movement.

A criminal complaint filed last month says the woman told police that Batali noticed her taking a picture of him at the restaurant and offered to take a selfie with her, The Boston Globe reported .

The woman says Batali then grabbed her chest, kissed her face and touched her groin without her consent.

Batali

The details in the complaint mirror those in a civil lawsuit filed against Batali in August. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for "severe emotional distress" including anxiety and self-doubt.

A lawyer for Batali said the chef denies the allegations.

"The charges, brought by the same individual without any new basis, are without merit," Attorney Anthony Fuller said in an emailed statement. "He intends to fight the allegations vigorously and we expect the outcome to fully vindicate Mr. Batali," Fuller said.

Several other women have previously come forward to allege sexual misconduct by Batali. Batali stepped down from daily operations at his restaurant empire and cooking show "The Chew" in December 2017 after four women accused him of inappropriate touching.

Batali apologized that month, saying the allegations "match up" with ways he has acted.

"I have made many mistakes and I am so very sorry that I have disappointed my friends, my family, my fans and my team," Batali said in an email newsletter. "My behavior was wrong and there are no excuses. I take full responsibility."

Garcia Bernal finds Cannes more relaxing as a director

CANNES, France (AP)—Gael Garcia Bernal is finding it's a lot more relaxing being at the Cannes Film Festival as a director than as an actor.

"As a director everything is done," says Garcia Bernal, whose film "Chicuarotes" is playing as an official selection but out of competition at Cannes.

Bernal

"There's nothing else to do. So, I just, I don't know, let myself go. And I love the movie, I like it a lot. I like what we all did, all the collaborators did a wonderful job. And I'm proud of them and I'm happy," he said.

"Chicuarotes" follows two teenage friends in a town within Mexico City who turn to crime in an attempt to change their lives. The Mexican star says the lives of the characters are completely foreign to what he experienced growing up.

"What's so striking about the world they live in is they grew up in something that I am so far away from," he told The Associated Press in an interview this week. "I grew up in a very loving family and these kids (have) not. They don't have it. And I just can't understand how anyone grows up like that.

"It's like 'how do you do it?' I don't know there's something about wanting to know a person ... (and) the consequences of this cycle of violence that they go through."

This is not the directorial debut for Garcia Bernal, but he is better known for his acting projects, including "The Motorcycle Diaries," "Bad Education" and "Mozart in the Jungle."

Garcia Bernal first considered making the film a decade ago but decided to put things on hold following the birth of his son.

"I had to get out from it a little bit. So, I've been revisiting it constantly and now I've ended up making it," he says.

Theme park to star 'Hunger Games,' 'Twilight'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Some of Lionsgate's most popular film franchises from "Hunger Games" to "Twilight" will be brought to life when the studio opens what it calls the world's first vertical theme park in China this summer.

Lionsgate Entertainment World will offer several adventures including a virtual reality motorcycle ride based on "Twilight," a maximum-security prison breakout like in "Escape Plan" and a replica of The Capitol lobby from "Hunger Games," complete with shops where guests can fashion themselves in the film's distinctive couture.

More than 25 rides and virtual reality experiences will pack a sleek, futuristic looking bean-shaped building that stands 10 stories high. The theme park, which will also include attractions based on films such as "Divergent," "Now You See Me" and "Gods of Egypt," is scheduled to open in July on Hengqin Island located in Zhuhai, China.

"We found a way to create this theme park experience inside of one box over multiple floors," said Jenefer Brown, senior vice president of Global Live and Location Based Entertainment at Lionsgate.

"We created experiences that are immersive, that tell stories and are organic to the brands," she said. "It's a mix of all the cutting-edge attractions that you'll find in entertainment right now."

Brown said Lionsgate decided to create its first theme park to expand their international brand into China where films like "Twilight" and "Gods of Egypt" are popular. She said the studio hopes to capitalize off Zhuhai's emerging status as a tourist destination and its proximity to Macau, which is considered the "Las Vegas of China." She said the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom theme park in Zhuhai has already drawn tens of millions of people.

The Santa Monica, California-based company expects to have around 1.5 million park goers this year.

"We would complement Macau," Brown said. "The idea is to have Vegas and Orlando right next to each other and create this super tourist destination. ... People are already coming here. But we're on the early side in terms of development on the island. It's growing into this dedicated kind of entertainment tourist place and virtual containment vessel."

Lionsgate Entertainment World would be the first movie-themed park on Hengqin Island. Disney has a theme resort in Shanghai, and Universal has plans for a park based on its franchises, including "Fast and the Furious," in Beijing.

The theme park will be a part of a large destination called Novotown, a multi-phase project that includes a hotel and office towers along with retail dining and entertainment. Future phases include plans for the National Geographic Ultimate Explorer and Real Madrid interactive experiences, as well as an international school will be built offering British-based education.

Here are some of the theme park's other features shown to The Associated Press during a recent sneak peek of the park's design and attractions:

FLYING, AND FASHION, IN "HUNGER GAMES"

Based on the four-part film series starring Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, park goers will journey through a motion simulator 3D ride experience called The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Flight Rebel Escape. It starts on the streets before riders board a vehicle that gets picked up by a hovercraft that flies through The Capitol.

Guests will also have the opportunity to venture around the lobby area of The Capitol where they can get their hair, makeup and even nails done to look like a citizen of the "Hunger Games" films, including the look of chaperone Effie Trinket.

Restaurants will feature a "Hunger Games"-themed menu with different dishes inspired by the film's various districts.

Daniel Craig to undergo minor ankle surgery for Bond injury

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Bond is out of commission for a few weeks. Star Daniel Craig is undergoing minor ankle surgery after sustaining an injury while filming the 25th installment in the franchise in Jamaica.

The news comes Wednesday in a tweet from the official James Bond twitter account. The statement says that production will continue during the 51-year-old actor's two-week post-surgery rehabilitation and that the film will stay on track to hit its April 2020 release date.

This is Craig's fifth outing as 007.

AP

In this April 25, 2019, file photo, actor Daniel Craig poses for photographers during the photo call of the latest installment of the James Bond film franchise, currently known as "Bond 25," in Oracabessa, Jamaica.

District attorney says Meek Mill should get new trial, judge

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia's top prosecutor called for a new trial and judge for rapper Meek Mill on Wednesday, saying the former judge who sentenced him "abused its discretion" and has been biased against him.

District Attorney Larry Krasner's office filed a brief questioning Common Pleas Court Judge Genece Brinkley's "impartiality," citing her decision to check in on Mill at a homeless shelter where he was doing community service and later criticizing him for not doing more.

Krasner said she improperly referred to her own observations at his sentencing hearing.

"Judge Brinkley personally assumed the role of investigator," the brief says.

Mill, whose real name is Robert Rihmeek Williams, became a symbol for criminal justice reform activists after Brinkley sentenced him to 2 to 4 years in prison for minor violations of his probation conditions in a decade-old gun and drug possession case in November 2017.

He spent months in prison before a court ordered him released in April of last year.

Krasner said Mill, 32, should get a new trial before a different judge. He said the court "abused its discretion when it imposed" the sentence on Mill. He had asked for a new trial but his request had been shot down. His appeal efforts continue.

Brinkley has denied any accusations she was biased against Mill during proceedings.

A message was left Wednesday with attorney A. Charles Peruto Jr., who represents Brinkley.

MTV star's girlfriend gets new lawyer in Las Vegas case

LAS VEGAS (AP)—"Jersey Shore" star Ronnie Ortiz-Magro's on-again-off-again girlfriend got a new lawyer to defend her on a misdemeanor allegation that she attacked Ortiz-Magro at a Las Vegas club on New Year's Eve.

Jennifer Annette Harley made a brief appearance Wednesday before a judge who set another hearing June 12 to let her court-appointed attorney and prosecutors confer.

Harley remains free on bond.

The 32-year-old Harley and the MTV reality show star have a daughter together, and court records show misdemeanor domestic battery charges against her in 2016 and 2018 were dismissed.

Harley was arrested last week after Las Vegas police responding to her report of a man in a van with a gun learned she was sought on a warrant in the Dec. 31 incident at Hustler Night Club.

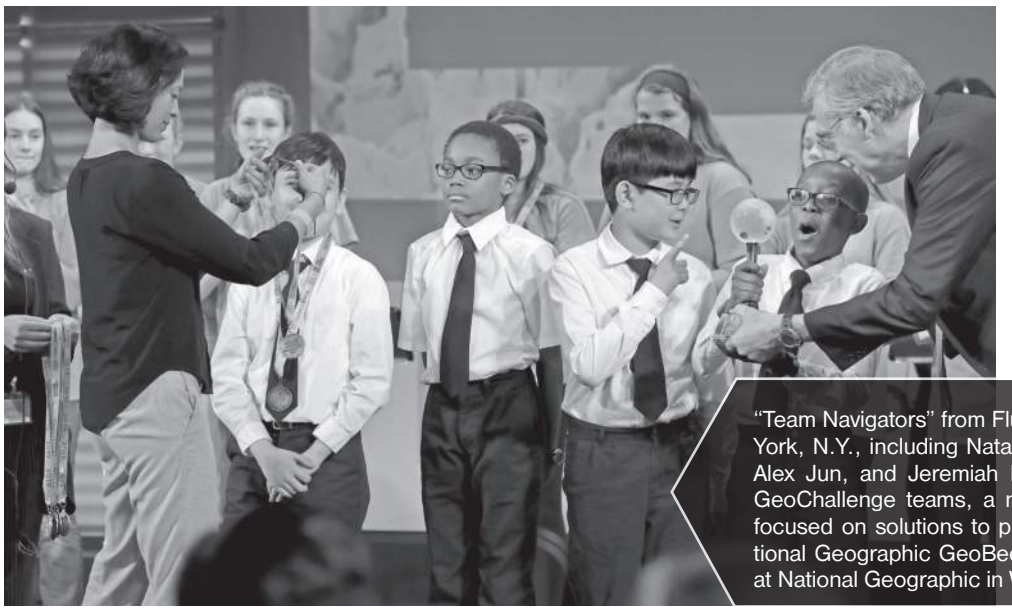
Christopher Nolan's new espionage film gets a title: 'Tenet'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Filmmaker Christopher Nolan's upcoming international espionage film has a title. Warner Bros. on Wednesday says the action epic is called "Tenet."

The ensemble cast includes Robert Pattinson, John David Washington, Elizabeth Debicki, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Michael Caine and Kenneth Branagh. Production is currently underway and the studio says filming will span seven countries.

Nolan is directing off of his own script and shooting on a mixture of IMAX and 70mm film.

"Tenet" is expected to hit theaters on July 17, 2020.



AP

"Team Navigators" from Flushing Christian School in New York, N.Y., including Natanel Rozic, left, Victor Jimenez, Alex Jun, and Jeremiah Pierre, react after they win in GeoChallenge teams, a new project-based competition focused on solutions to plastic pollution, part of the National Geographic GeoBee, Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at National Geographic in Washington.

Texas 8th-grader wins National Geographic contest

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nihar Janga, an eighth-grader from Austin, Texas, with an already impressive array of awards, took home top honors Wednesday in the 31st annual National Geographic GeoBee, an elite test of geographic knowledge.

Janga triumphed during a competition at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington. The student from Austin's Canyon Ridge Middle School was also a co-champion of the 2016 Scripps National Spelling Bee and a top-ten finalist in the 2018 GeoBee.

The society also held the first-ever national-level competition of the GeoChallenge, a team competition that asked for innovative solutions to modern problems. This year's challenge: plastic pollution in our waterways.

A team from Flushing Christian School in Flushing, New York, won by building a model filtration device to clear plastic debris from the Hudson River.

The winning team will receive $25,000 plus support to implement their project. Janga will receive a $25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society and an expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the National Geographic Endeavour ll.

Church music director hides her drinking problem well

DEAR ABBY: The music director at our church -- I'll call her Mildred—is an alcoholic. I realized it after I offered my home to her when she said she needed to escape from her alcoholic partner. Mildred is a nighttime drinker and imbibes until probably 2 a.m. She says she can't get to sleep until the "middle of the night."

I was married to an alcoholic for many years, yet I had no idea Mildred had a problem until she lived with me for those few weeks. She left my home giving me the various reasons why I wasn't nice enough to her and has returned to her alcoholic partner.

Should I say anything to the administrator of the church? At this point, it's my word against Mildred's, and her problem will be discovered sooner or later. Your advice?

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE EAST

DEAR GETTING INVOLVED: If Mildred's drinking negatively affects her work, tell the administrator. If not, keep the bad tidings to yourself. However, in the future, if appropriate, be ready to share with Mildred information about support resources available to her such as AA, SMART Recovery, LifeRing and Women For Sobriety.

DEAR ABBY: My partner recently lost one of his lateral incisors. He got a prosthetic tooth to wear until he gets an implant, which looks fine if he wears it. The problem is, it isn't comfortable. He can't eat with it, and he often prefers to leave it out. He also does this at home.

We live in a major metropolitan city. Having missing teeth is just not acceptable. Aside from it being bad for his dental health, he looks like a jack-o'-lantern when he smiles, which is extremely unattractive. I feel it's socially and professionally detrimental. Every time I broach the subject of moving forward with the implant, he responds with fierce opposition, which inevitably ends in an argument. Any advice?

THAT'S THE "TOOTH" IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR TOOTH: It would be helpful to understand why your partner fiercely opposes moving forward with the implant. Is he afraid it will be painful? Is the problem that he doesn't have the money? If it's the former, he should talk to his dentist so his fears can be allayed. If it's the latter, perhaps he can talk to the dentist about payment options, or you can help him pay for the implant.

DEAR ABBY: What does it mean when your husband answers everything with "no"? For example, if I ask, "Are you watching 'This Old House'?" he says, "No, I'm watching 'This Old House.'" If I ask, "Do you want to eat dinner at 6?" he replies, "No, how about we eat around 6?" It's driving me nuts, and he doesn't even realize he does it. This happens almost every time I ask a question. Do you have any insight into this phenomenon?

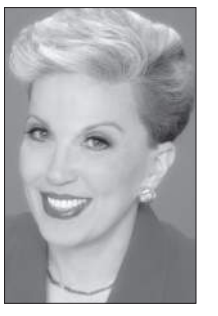
TALKED OUT IN TEXAS

DEAR TALKED OUT: Your husband may be joking with you or not paying close attention when you ask him a question. I assume that you have told him how much this bothers you. (If you haven't, you should.) However, if it continues, stop asking and TELL him what time dinner will be ready, and reframe the way you ask your questions. (Instead of asking if he's watching "This Old House" say, "What are you watching, Honey?")

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

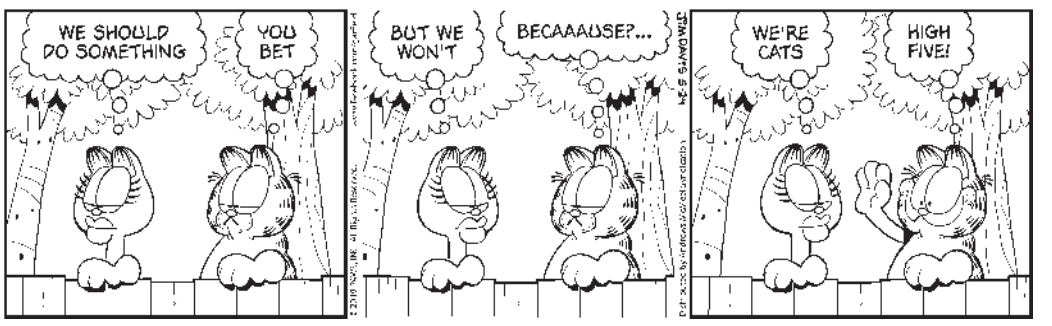
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THE CAR IS ROLLING INTO THE ROAD!!
WHAT IF SOMEONE HITS IT?!?
LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT! THERE'S NO ONE DRIVING!!
THERE IT GOES!!
I CAN'T WATCH!
GRUNCH
NOBODY HIT IT! IT JUST WENT INTO THE RAVINE ACROSS THE STREET!
HOORAY, WE'RE DEAD.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



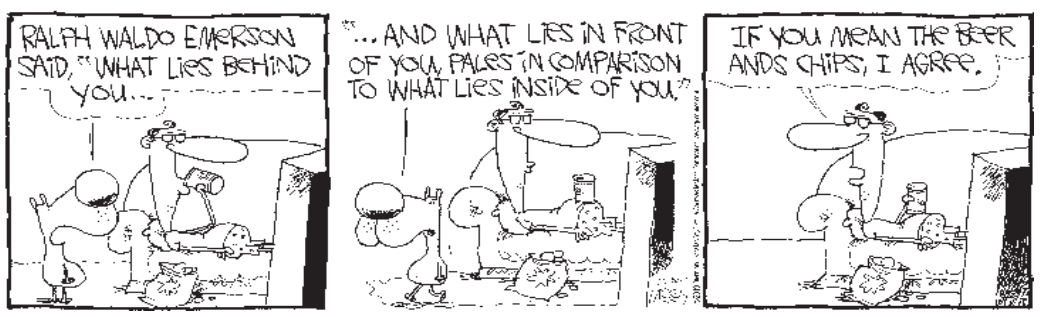
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE!! IT'S 5:40 AM.!!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH..? THESE ARE THE SLEEPING HOURS, YOU LUNATICS!
OOOOOOH.
IT'S ALSO THE EGG MCMUFFIN HOUR, WHICH IS ONE MARK IN THE PRO COLUMN.
BLINKER BLINKER

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


RALPH WALDO EMERSON SAID, "WHAT LIES BEHIND YOU...
"...AND WHAT LIES IN FRONT OF YOU, PALES IN COMPARISON TO WHAT LIES INSIDE OF YOU."
IF YOU MEAN THE BEER ANDS CHIPS, I AGREE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Standard
4 Like custard
8 Jubilation
12 Candle count
13 Crib cry
14 Verdi opera
15 "Yellow" band
17 Zorro's marks
18 Teeny bit
19 Lincoln's coin
20 Long-limbed
22 Wild guess
24 "How sweet —!"
25 "Light My Fire" band
29 Rock's Brian
30 Berth places
31 Quick swim
32 "Jump" band
34 Greek cheese
35 Always
36 Gourmand
37 Task
40 Vivacity
41 Sci-fi prefix
42 "Jeremy" band
46 Privy to
47 Robust
48 Mine yield
49 Honey bunch?
50 Historic Scott
51 Evergreen type

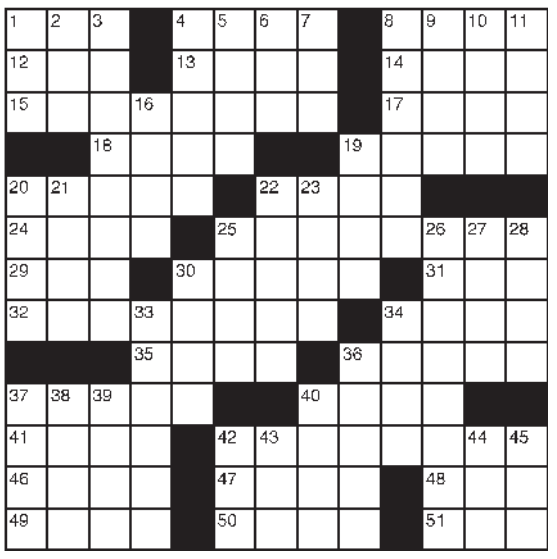
DOWN

1 Lobbying org.
2 Previously
3 Seminary study
4 Void
5 Fancy party
6 "Today" rival, briefly
7 "Rah!"
8 Garden pavilion
9 Property claim
10 Genesis garden
11 Relaxed
16 Feet, slangily
19 Cushions
20 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
21 Sicilian volcano
22 Transparent
23 Seabird
25 Scrabble piece
26 Schiller poem used by Beethoven
27 Ceremony
28 Mast
30 Macadamize
33 Marsh birds
34 Flunk
36 Goofed
37 First bed
38 Sharpen
39 Slender woodwind
40 Hay bundle
42 Third degree?
43 Corn serving
44 Exist
45 Kitten's cry

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	O	P	S		B	B	Q		B	E	E	P		
C	S	A	U		-	I	U		L	A	L	A		
O	H		N		I	C	I		A	R	I	D		
I	A	N	D	I	N		I	F	N	D				
			A	R	I	S	T	O	C	R	A	T		
B	U	S	E	S		T	E	N		U	T	A		
A	R	I	S		N	O	D		S	M	O	G		
R	D	A		P	E	I		W	A	S	P	S		
B	U	R	E	A	U	C	R	A	T					
			T	I	I	T		F	D	I	T	F	D	
S	T	U	D		R	C	A		E	R	T	E		
T	A	P	E		O	I	L		T	U	N	A		
J	S	S	R		N	A	M		Y	E	A	H		

Yesterday's answer 5-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Ballas, 33; John C. Reilly, 54; Priscilla Presley, 74; Bob Dylan, 78.

Happy Birthday: Walk away from negativity and toward your dreams. Express what you want, and take the initiative to turn your ideas into reality. Look at relationships to learn from the experiences you encountered. You will make better decisions moving forward. A personal change will do you good and restore trust and belief in your abilities. Your numbers are 2, 10, 17, 28, 30, 36, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Your involvement in a project that will be helpful to a cause you believe in will also bring you in contact with people who can help you achieve your goals. Take care of unfinished business before you take on something new. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Personal changes you make will be gratifying. The way you present yourself to others will drum up interest in what you have to offer. Don't let an emotional incident cause you to act prematurely. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Gather information, and learn all you can before you make a decision that could change your direction. Knowing what you want will help you avoid being directed by someone who is out for his or her own gain. Love who you are. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Offer quality over quantity. What you do for others or how you contribute will influence the way people think and feel about you. A positive change in attitude will open up a window of opportunity that will make your life easier. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Run your ideas by someone who has helped you in the past. Being clear will encourage honest responses. A partnership will be beneficial if you divvy up responsibilities. A change of attitude will help you recognize who's taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll have difficulty convincing others to see things your way. If you want others to join you, start doing what you want and let your success be your selling feature. Focus on forward motion. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Taking day trip, attending a meeting or sharing ideas with peers will lead to something new and exciting. Don't let anyone pile responsibilities that don't belong to you on your shoulders. It's up to you to choose where your time is best spent. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Joint financial matters should be handled with care. If you let emotions interfere, it can end up costing you. Discipline will be required if you intend to get things done on time. A romantic gesture will prompt a change of heart. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make plans with someone who has something to offer. Learn from mistakes, and set up guidelines that will help important relationships grow into something special. Don't take a physical risk. If you want to make an impression, use your intelligence. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't overspend on luxury items you can live without. An energetic approach to important relationships and making your home environment comfortable and welcoming are encouraged. A physical improvement will raise your self-esteem. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Share your thoughts and feelings to gain someone's favor. It's how you approach and handle others that will make a difference. Honesty, compassion and love are encouraged. Don't make physical changes or unhealthy choices. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do whatever you can to help a cause you believe in. The people you encounter will help you achieve personal growth. A change in the way someone feels about you will lead to a romantic opportunity. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, funny and helpful. You are innovative and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5			9			3
	9	1		7	8	2
			1	7		5
		7		5	1	
3			2		9	
	8	2		3	5	1
6				4		2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	8	2	4	1	3	7	6
7	2	4	6	3	9	5	8	1
6	1	3	7	5	8	4	9	2
5	9	1	4	8	2	7	6	3
3	6	7	9	1	5	8	2	4
4	8	2	3	7	6	1	5	9
8	7	9	1	2	4	6	3	5
2	4	5	8	6	3	9	1	7
1	3	6	5	9	7	2	4	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY' (FILM) Solution: 11 letters

C	S	S	C	S	R	E	Y	M	K	E	L	A	M	W
N	I	T	S	U	A	Q	A	H	U	H	C	A	E	B
O	N	N	A	Y	R	B	U	C	R	S	Z	W	R	R
T	G	D	O	S	C	O	R	E	R	Z	I	E	C	A
T	E	N	Y	C	U	L	D	E	E	L	T	C	U	T
U	Ⓡ	E	D	M	I	N	G	L	L	N	M	Y	R	A
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: ELIJAH JAMESON TERLAJE HEMLEY Petitioner	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0240 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 5, 2019, at 9:00a.m. in the Courtroom MBP before Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 21st day of May, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Durant still undecided on free agency

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Durant has long been rumored to be joining the New York Knicks this July. The LA Clippers could also be a possibility. So could the Brooklyn Nets.

There's also the chance he stays with the Golden State Warriors, who advanced to their fifth consecutive NBA Finals.

So really, no one knows what Durant's going to do. Apparently, not even Durant.

At least that's what his agent, Rich Kleiman, said during the Wall Street Journal's The Future of Everything Festival on Tuesday night.

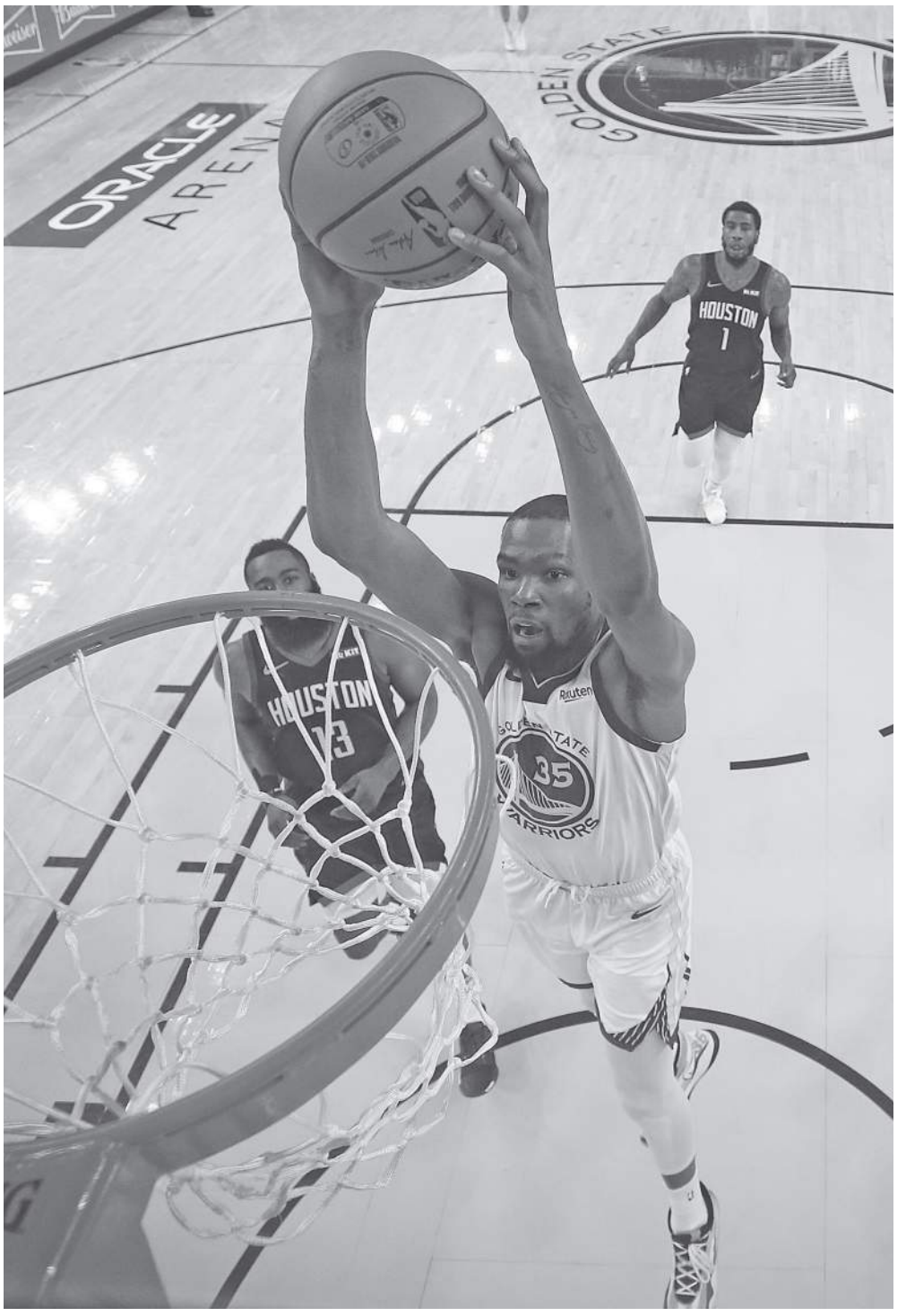
Kleiman, a New York native, told Jason Gay that his client isn't thinking about his free agency right now.

"No, no, no," Kleiman said. "That is 100 percent undecided. I'm waiting on Kevin. That's the truth. I think there's a feeling that this thing is like war games and everybody is playing chess years out.

"But when somebody gets to the level of basketball that he's at, you can't juggle focus like that. There's so many things he's juggling too. He's not scripting his future while he's playing the way he plays and practicing the way he's practicing."

Durant is trying to rehab from a strained right calf suffered during the Western Conference semifinals. There's no specific timetable as to when he could rejoin the Warriors.

Golden State will take on the winner of the Milwaukee Bucks-Toronto Raptors series in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on May 30.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant (35) scores over Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) during the first half of Game 5 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Wednesday, May 8, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Durant's immediate future is as murky as his long-term future.

The Knicks have long been considered a potential destination for Durant, especially since they created enough cap space in January for two max free agents. The rumors of a possible Durant-Kyrie Irving pairing have persisted.

But the Nets also have an appealing situation, and so do the Clippers. Both teams could potentially add another max free agent with some additional maneuvers.

And then there are the Warriors, who can offer Durant more money than any other team—not to mention the chance to contend well into the future.

If it's true that Durant is sensitive to the perception that he took the easy route to a championship by joining the loaded Warriors and he wants to carve out his own legacy, then Golden State's playoff success without him might not be helping.

Joining another team, especially the struggling Knicks, would show Durant isn't afraid of a challenge.

But only Durant knows his true motivations. A lot could change once he gets in front of teams and hears their free agency pitches come July.

Rumors, speculation and theories are going to continue to fly until then.

"I think it's frustrating honestly, at times," Kleiman said Tuesday night. "But I get it, I do get it. Even as a kid, the soap opera of it all was just beginning, and I liked it. Now, in some ways it's more soap opera at times than basketball. But he really doesn't know, and I really don't know."

Big 3 still favored in French Open

The Big 3 are still very much around. They're still leading the rankings, still collecting the biggest trophies. And they're still the dominant figures in men's tennis, responsible for the main story lines when the French Open starts Sunday.

Roger Federer returns to Roland Garros for the first time since 2015—and a decade after he completed the career Grand Slam by winning his only trophy there. Rafael Nadal seeks a record-extending—and hard-to-fathom— 12th title in Paris. Novak Djokovic bids to win his fourth major championship in a row for the second time in his career, something neither of his two great rivals ever did even once.

They occupy the top three spots in the rankings, with Djokovic followed by Nadal, then Federer. They occupy the top three slots on the list of most men's Grand Slam titles, with Federer's 20 followed by Nadal's 17 and Djokovic's 15. And they have combined to win the past nine major tournaments, with three apiece.

"Nadal's reign is never over. Just like Federer's reign isn't ending," said Riccardo Piatti, who coached Djokovic when the Serb was a teen and has worked with other top-10 players. "As long as they play, they're always very dangerous. But let's not forget that Djokovic is No. 1."

Might seem silly now, but there was a stretch when some wondered whether this group might be done with all of that winning.

Federer, who's now 37, went 4½ years without adding to his Slam count. He dealt with knee surgery and recurring back problems. He sat out the 2016 French Open, ending a streak of 65 straight major appearances, then missed the U.S. Open and Rio Olympics that year, too. He skipped the entire clay-court circuit each of the last two years, before finally coming back this season and reaching the quarterfinals in Madrid and Rome, where he withdrew, citing an injured right leg.

"In practice in Switzerland, I felt good right away," Federer said about what it initially was like for him on the slow surface, which requires extra footwork and lengthy, grind-it-out exchanges. "Very happy where I'm at, to be quite honest. I was a bit surprised that it went as easy as it did."

Nadal, who turns 33 during the French Open, did not win a title all season until last week at the Italian Open, which is mainly surprising because it means he kept faltering on his beloved clay.

He's been sidelined by hand and knee injuries in 2019, and his play hasn't always been up to his usual standards.

"Been some low moments for me," he said.

But Nadal looked a lot more like himself in Rome, where he handed opponents a total of four 6-0 sets, including one against Djokovic in the final.

Asked to look ahead to Paris after that three-set loss, Djokovic said: "Nadal, No. 1 favorite, without a doubt. Then everyone else."

"He's one of the greatest champions this game has ever seen," Djokovic said. "His mentality, his approach, his resilience, ability to fight back after long absence from the tour, injuries, surgeries. He's had it all. He keeps on showing to the world why he's one of the biggest legends of tennis history."

Bucks need better bench play to regain control vs Raptors

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Bucks are back in Milwaukee looking to regain momentum in the Eastern Conference finals.

Coach Mike Budenholzer believes the play of his bench will be a major factor in what happens in Game 5 on Thursday.

The Bucks reserves played so well in the first two games of the series that the teams' apparel shop unveiled a "Bench Mob" T-shirt, celebrating the efforts of Malcolm Brogdon, Ersan Ilyasova, George Hill and others. Milwaukee's bench outscored Toronto's reserves 130-78 through the first three games of the series.

But it was the Raptors' bench, led by forward Norman Powell's 18 points, that decided Game 4—scoring 48 points Tuesday as Toronto evened the series at 2-2.

"They need to play well," Budenholzer said Wednesday of his reserves. "I think our whole team, whether it be the bench or the starters, needs to be better defensively. I think there's things offensively where the bench can, you know, just like the rest of us, we have to execute a little bit better. ... this series, the benches have been critical and very influential and credit to Toronto's bench, particularly. They really stepped up and had a huge game, and we need that from our group."

Serge Ibaka gave the Raptors a lift off the bench Tuesday with 17 points and 13 rebounds. Fellow Toronto reserve Fred VanVleet added 13 points and six assists. Their efforts came as the Raptors got only 19 points from a hobbled Kawhi Leonard.

Raptors coach Nick Nurse is confident his bench will continue to play well in Milwaukee because of Toronto's style of play.

"That's really kind of our system, would be that we create opportunities and everyone's involved and everybody's touching the ball," he said. "Everybody's moving and cutting. It's kind of a free-flowing, open system.

"If we play with the effort we've put in the last two games, actually three of the four games in the series, we are going to have a really good chance to win," Nurse said. "We are going to put ourselves in position to win, and I don't think it's any tricky schemes or fabulous game plans. I think it's our players playing their butts off, really."

Brogdon, who returned from a foot injury in the Eastern Conference semifinals, missed his first seven shots Tuesday night and finished with just four points. None of the Milwaukee reserves scored in double digits.

"It was disappointing, but I mean, the series is 2-2," said Bucks forward Kris Middleton, who finished with a game-high 30 points. "It's not the end of the world. They protect their home court just like we did, and I know the fight is going to be a dogfight. First team to two wins. Can't feel sorry for ourselves that we lost two in a row here. We have to go protect home court and go from there."

Mets rally in 8th to stun Nationals

NEW YORK (AP)—Rajai Davis took batting practice Wednesday afternoon in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The 38-year-old outfielder ended his night hitting a three-run homer that capped a thrilling eighth-inning rally for the New York Mets.

"It was a normal day when it started," Davis said after a memorable 6-1 win over the Washington Nationals.

Max Scherzer outpitched fellow Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom , who allowed Adam Eaton's home run on his fourth pitch.

Juan Lagares hit a three-run double off Nationals closer Sean Doolittle with two outs in the eighth and Davis added a three-run homer, his first in 134 career plate appearances as a pinch hitter.

New York, which had been 0-23 when trailing after seven innings, won its third straight following a five-game losing streak and a front office endorsement of oft-criticized manager Mickey Callaway.

White Sox 9, Astros 4

In Houston, Eloy Jiménez homered twice and the Chicago White Sox turned the first triple play in the majors this season during a 9-4 victory over the Astros.

Charlie Tilson's first career homer was a grand slam in Chicago's six-run sixth inning. A night after managing just one hit in a 5-1 loss, the White Sox got going early in this one, with Jimenéz connecting in the second and Jose Abreu adding a solo shot in the fourth to give them a 2-0 lead.

Rays 8, Dodgers 1

In St. Petersburg, Avisail Garcia and Kevin Kiermaier each hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to power the Tampa Bay Rays past the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Kiermaier also made a rocket throw from center field to cut down Cody Bellinger at home plate, keeping the score tied 1-all in the sixth. Bellinger, who was aboard on a fielder's choice, failed to reach base safely for the first time in 46 starts this season. He went 0 for 4, dropping his major league-leading batting average to .394.

Tommy Pham hit his sixth homer for the Rays, and Brandon Lowe singled in the go-ahead run to spark a seven-run seventh. Emilio Pagan (1-0) got four outs in relief.

Athletics 7, Indians

In Cleveland, Frankie Montas pitched six scoreless innings, Mark Canha homered and drove in three runs and Oakland extended its winning streak to six games with a win over the Indians.

Nick Hundley had three hits, including a solo homer and two RBIs. Robbie Grossman also drove in a pair of runs as Oakland swept the three-game series and reached the .500 mark for the first time since April 26.

Yankees 7, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Gleyber Torres hit two of New York's five home runs off Baltimore's beleaguered pitching staff, and survived a shaky outing from CC Sabathia.

Torres homered leading off the third and fifth innings to help New York take a 7-2 lead. Gary Sanchez hit his ninth homer against the Orioles this season, and DJ LeMahieu and Thairo Estrada also connected.

Baltimore has lost five in a row to sink to 15-34, the worst record in the majors.

AP

A pitch thrown by Washington Nationals starting pitcher Erick Fedde grazes the shirt of New York Mets Juan Lagares during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 22, 2019, in New York.

Royals 8, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Brad Keller pitched seven-plus innings of two-hit baseball, Jorge Soler hit a three-run homer and Kansas City beat the Cardinals in the first game of a doubleheader.

Keller (3-5) snapped a six-start winless streak. He pitched around leadoff walks in the first, second and fourth innings and had retired 12 of 13 batters before Matt Carpenter walked and Paul Goldschmidt singled to start the eighth, ending Keller's day. Keller struck out three, walked four and hit two batters.

Brewers 11, Reds 9

In Milwaukee, Yasmani Grandal homered during a big rally and started a bizarre double play on a pitch that got past him and bounced to the backstop, helping thr Brewers outlast Cincinnati.

Grandal hit a two-run homer as the Brewers scored five times in the sixth for an 11-8 lead.

The pitching matchup between the Brewers' Zach Davies and Luis Castillo turned out to be the shortest outing of the season for both.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 2

In San Diego, left-hander Eric Lauer pitched seven strong innings for his first win in seven starts and Greg Garcia had three hits, scored twice and drove in a run as the Padres beat Arizona to complete a three-game sweep.

Lauer (3-4) held the Diamondbacks to one run and four hits, struck out seven and walked none to win for the first time since April 8 at San Francisco. Kirby Yates got the final three outs for his major league-leading 20th save.

Marlins 6, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Garrett Cooper hit his first major league home run in the sixth inning, leading a comeback as Miami won its fifth straight by beating Detroit.

The Tigers led 3-0 before Cooper's solo shot. The Marlins then scored three runs in the seventh, and Brian Anderson added a two-run homer in the eighth.

Detroit has dropped eight in a row—and Sunday's game was suspended with the Tigers trailing Oakland in the seventh inning.

Detroit starter Daniel Norris was solid before giving way to Buck Farmer (2-3).

Cubs 8, Phillies 4

In Chicago, Cole Hamels struggled in his first start against his original team, Albert Almora Jr. hit his first career grand-slam and the Cubs rallied from an early three-run deficit to beat the Phillies.

With the game tied at 3 in the fifth, Almora launched Cole Irvin's fastball into the shrubs in the center-field batter's eye. The 25-year-old Almora popped out of the dugout for a curtain call and doffed his helmet to an ovation from the crowd of 39,246.

Rockies 9, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Josh Bell reached the Allegheny River on the fly for the second time in two weeks, the only notable blemish for the Colorado Rockies in a win over the Pirates.

After Daniel Murphy hit a three-run homer to put Colorado ahead 3-0 in the first inning, Bell sent a changeup from Jon Gray 454 feet over the Clemente Wall in right field with an exit velocity of 116 mph, making it 3-1 in the second.

Comets avenge loss to Little Legals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Comets got back at the Kagman Little Legals after eking out a 7-4 victory in their Majors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Relief pitcher Isidro Lizama took over the mound in the fourth inning and threw a one-hitter to lift the Comets to victory. He gave up no runs and just a single to Santiago Seman and struck out seven batters. The closer had back-to-back strikeouts at the top of the sixth inning and the Comets ended the game early after getting the third out in the ensuing play with Jared Muna going out on a 4-3 play.

Lizama also had a two-run single at the bottom of the third inning where the Comets regained the upper hand after scoring six runs.

The Comets, who lost to the defending champions in the first of the double-round regular season, led after two complete innings off Jesus Tyquenco's sacrifice fly at the bottom of the second inning, but lost the driver's seat when the Little Legals delivered four runs at the top of the third. Austin Diaz had a two-run triple for the Little Legals, who notched two unearned runs to grab the lead.

However, the Little Legals' stay on top was short-lived, as the Comets countered at the bottom. Besides Lizama's two-run single, Patty Mendiola also had a crucial hit for the Comets, as her triple drove in three runners.

With the Comets retaking the lead, Lizama, who came it for Justin Camacho, stepped up and shut down the Little Legals to hand their team a 6-3 record—the same mark the Talaabwogh Falcons and McDonald's hold. The Little Legals are now 7-2 and still on top of the six-team field with one game left in the regular season, making the battle for the pennant an open race among four squads.

FIFA keeps 32 teams for 2022 World Cup in Qatar

SWITZERLAND (AP)—FIFA scrapped plans to expand the 2022 Qatar World Cup to 48 nations, deciding Wednesday to stick with 32 countries due to the political and logistical complexities of using another Persian Gulf nation.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino's hopes of expanding the Middle East's first World Cup in the region were stymied by the regional diplomatic crisis and the governing body's demands on host nations to adhere to its human and labor rights requirements. That means the World Cup will not be expanded until 2026, with FIFA already having approved a format with 48 teams for that tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

A meeting of the FIFA Council in March authorized Infantino to work with Qatar on seeing if it was feasible to use at least one more country in the region to accommodate an additional 16 matches and present a proposal at meetings in June.

"Following a thorough and comprehensive consultation process with the involvement of all the relevant stakeholders, it was concluded that under the current circumstances such a proposal could not be made now," FIFA said in a statement on Wednesday. "Due to the advanced stage of preparations and the need for a detailed assessment of the potential logistical impact on the host country, more time would be required and a decision could not be taken before the deadline of June. It was therefore decided not to further pursue this option."

AP

FIFA president Gianni Infantino holds a soccer ball as he speaks during a press conference after the FIFA Council Meeting, Friday, March 15, 2019, in Miami.

A FIFA internal report had already concluded that the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia could not join as co-hosts unless they restore the economic and travel ties with Qatar that were severed two years ago.

The regional diplomatic crisis left neutral Kuwait and Oman as the viable options. Oman has said it isn't keen on hosting games at the FIFA showpiece. Infantino visited Kuwait last month in an attempt to persuade them to host matches in 2022.

But FIFA has now concluded that it lacked to the time to prepare a country to host the extra games.

In Kuwait, Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium has 60,000 seats and the capacity at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium is only 26,000. Both venues would require upgrades to be used at the World Cup, putting the spotlight on working conditions and labor rights.

FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura wrote to human rights activists last month to offer assurances that there was going to be "an assessment of human rights risks and potential opportunities associated with a possible expansion."

Qatar has an exemption that allows foreigners to drink alcohol, but Kuwait has a complete ban which would have be problematic for FIFA, which has Budweiser as a major sponsor.

FIFA has already had to adapt to cope with taking its showpiece tournament to the Middle East for the first time.

While Qatar won a vote in 2010 on the basis of staging a June-July World Cup, FIFA shifted the tournament to from its usual slot because of the fierce summer heat to Nov. 21-Dec 18, 2022.

FAVORED

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berths at the upper half of the draw today.

The other Final Four ticket at the top half of the field will be disputed by No. 3 Matthew Garcia of the Philippines and No. 5 Dong Gyu-Oh of South Korea. Gyu won his third round match over compatriot Gyun Seop Sim, 6-4, 6-1, while Garcia prevailed over No. 14 and Japan's Kaita Odani, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 7-5.

At the bottom half of the draw, No. 2 Nan Hsun Lin of Chinese-Taipei made it to the quarterfinals after ousting No. 15 Sooyang Yang of South Korea, 6-2, 6-2. Lin will face No. 8 and Japanese Hiro Fujita—a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 winner over South Korean Je Won Jeon.

No. 16 Kenta Miyoshi is the only other Japanese to make it to the quarterfinals after downing South Korean Junhyun Lee, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) and he will be up against the latter's compatriot. Kim is the lone unseeded player to reach the Round of 8 following his upset over No. 7 and the CNMI's Robbie Schorr, 6-1, 6-3.

Meanwhile, in the girls singles play, two unseeded players are in the semifinals.

South Korea's Hui-Gyeong Kim pulled the rag under No. 3 Kanami Hayashige of Japan, 7-5, 6-3, to set up a Final Four duel against No. 2 and China's Zijun Jiang, who booted out South Korean Seoyoung Kim, 6-4, 7-6 (9).

No. 1 Manami Ukita of Japan also took only two sets to top South Korean Gio Jang, 6-4, 6-2, and she will be taking on unranked Japanese Natsumi Numano, who made it to the semis following an upset over No. 7 and compatriot Honoka Umeda, 6-7 (8), 6-0, 6-0.

Ukita is in the semis, too, of the doubles event, as she and China's Qianyu Liu defeated South Korean's Gui-Gyeong and Seoyoung Kim, 7-5, 6-4. Liu and Ukita are the No. 1 seed in the division and will either meet No. 3 Jiang and Haoyan Wu or the unseeded Japanese pair of Riko Kamikura and Hiromi Sekiguchi in the semis.

In the other semis duel, it will be Chinese-Taipei's Lee and Li Hsin Lin against No. 2 Rio Osoegawa and Kanami Hayashige. The Japanese duo advanced after sweeping Jang and Hong Kong's Man Li, 6-3, 6-4, while Lin and Lee slipped past No. 4 Sofiya Lebedeva of Russia and Hong Kong's Hannah Shen, 4-6, 7-5, 11-9.

In the boys doubles, all Top 8 seeds are in the quarterfinals.

TSUNAMI

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ishers. Hans Xu and Nelson Batallones recorded the second and third best marks after logging 24.94 second and 24.99 seconds, respectively. In the girls division, Ashley Dangol led the finishers with her 25.55 seconds.

Xu topped the 50-yard backstroke (27.83 seconds), while Aika Watanabe led in the girls field with her 29.46 seconds. In the 50-yard butterfly, Batallones ruled his favorite event after checking in at 26.07 seconds, while Dangol was the fastest in the girls division after recording 27.61 seconds.

Tenorio delivered in the 50-yard breaststroke event after registering 31.24 seconds, while Asaka Litulumar earned the best time in the girls race with her 36.59 seconds.

Besides the 50-yard races, Tsunami Saipan also had time trials in the 25-yard and 100-yard backstroke and 25-yard freestyle.

The time trial aimed at gauging Tsunami Saipan's improvement since they returned to practice (late last year after Super Typhoon Yutu) and also served as warm-up for Tenorio and Watanabe, who will represent the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa this summer.

SURVIVAL

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which are all located at the MIHA Housing.

"You can climb on a tree or pole if you must to evade the 'zombies'. You can also have a bathroom break along the course, but not for long because the hungry 'zombies' will be waiting for you outside," Endo said.

"Movement is life. This is survival of the fittest," he added.

You can only complete the entire course as "humans" and five checkpoints bands will be given to those who complete each stop. For participants in the team event, members may split up along the first four checkpoints, but they have to be together when they cross the finish line at Fiesta Resort's beach side.

"No cheating or you will do the dead-man pull (hauling a gigantic tire) as punishment," Endo said.

Over 500 have registered for the weekend event and KONQER president Kelli Wedd said they are expecting more will sign up this Saturday, as registration is free for individuals in the U17 age group.

Majority of the registered participants are locals/on-island, but Endo is confident that the event will draw more tourists in the future.

"The best product for tourists is the one that the community embraces. We are building the foundation by encouraging the members of the community to join KONQER. Tourists will hear from community members and will be encouraged to try it out," Endo said.

This year's KONQER Saipan: Zombie Apocalypse is presented by the Marianas Visitors Authority and supported by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Bank of Guam, IT&E, American President Lines, Coors Light, *Marianas Variety*, Roil Soil, Saipan Brewing Company, Marianas Health, Tribe Marianas, Paradise Awnings, DR LLC, Vantage Advertising, GoPro (F&M Distributors), TriVision Media Group, Saipan Global International Group, RNV Construction, and Imperial Pacific Inc.

Besides the Saipan stop, KONQER Apocalypse Tour will also head to Guam and Palau (two legs), while a finale is being mulled on Rota.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

Group C

Brazil, Australia *frontrunners*

Bonansea

Marta

Kerr

Brown

Little

Iwabuchi

Kirby

Difficult Group D

Japan, England, Argentina, and Scotland may not be in the "Group of Death," but this pool is a very difficult one, as teams have scores to settle in next month's competition.

When No. 3 England and No. 7 Japan collide in pool play, it will be a rematch of the 2015 semifinals, which the Nadeshiko narrowly won, 2-1, off a costly own goal from Laura Bassett. The defender is back for The Lionesses with vengeance in mind.

No. 20 Scotland is also eyeing to get back at England, having lost to its oldest foes in its first official match (1972), 3-2. England's most recent triumph over Scotland was in the group stage of the EUFA Women's Euro 2016, 6-0, but that shutout happened with the latter missing star player Kim Little. The Olympian suited up for Scotland in the Euro qualifiers last year and helped their team win seven of their eight matches—four were come-from-behind.

The Asian champion Japan is the only team in the group to have won the World Cup (2011/3-1 shootout against the United States) and would be gunning for an unprecedented third straight finals appearance after losing to the U.S. in 2015. The Nadeshiko have been to every World Cup.

No. 37 Argentina will be making only its third World Cup stint and is back after missing the previous two. In its first two World Cup competitions, the La Albiceleste never made it past group stage and lost to both Japan (0-6/2003) and England (1-6/2007). ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The advantage arrowhead points to Australia and Brazil, but with Italy back, the Group C battle for the two berths to the Round of 16 could be a three-way fight. The debuting Jamaica is obviously the darkhorse in the group.

World ranked No. 6 Australia and No. 10 Brazil boast of their rich World Cup experience with the latter appearing in all eight editions and the former in seven. The Sam Kerr-captained Matildas were the runners-up to Japan's Nadeshiko in the 2018 AFC Women's Asian Cup to qualify to the world stage, while the Marta-led Brazil were undefeated in seven games and scored 31 goals (gave up only two) for an impressive 4.42 average in the Copa America Femenina 2018. Australia and Brazil will be meeting for the fourth time with the As Canarinhas having the edge in their head-to-head, 2-1. Both squads have never won the World Cup with Brazil's best finish recorded in 2007 (runner-up to Germany) and Australia failing to move past the quarterfinal round.

Ranked No. 15, Italy is still in rebuilding process after the retirement of former star Melania Gabbiadini in 2017 and will be making its first World Cup appearance for the first time (third overall) in 20 years. The La Squadra Azzurra won seven of their eight matches in the European qualifiers, losing only to Belgium.

Jamaica is the lowest ranked in the group at No. 53 and earned a ticket to France after placing third in the CONCACAF Women's Championship 2018 behind the United States and Canada. The Reggae Girlz defeated Panama in a shootout, 4-2. The best young player of the championship was Jamaica's forward—the 17-year-old Jody Brown.

Banini

GROUP C SCHEDULE

Australia VS Italy	(June 9,6PM)	Jamaica VS Italy	(June 15, 2AM)
Brazil VS Jamaica	(June 9, 11:30PM)	Italy VS Brazil	(June 19, 5AM)
Australia VS Brazil	(June 14, 2AM)	Jamaica VS Australia	(June 19, 5AM)

GROUP D SCHEDULE

England VS Scotland	(June 10, 2AM)	England VS Argentina	(June 15, 11PM)
Argentina VS Japan	(June 11, 2AM)	Japan VS England	(June 20, 5AM)
Japan VS Scotland	(June 14, 11PM)	Scotland VS Argentina	(June 20, 5AM)

Source: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

Durant still undecided on free agency

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Sports

Mets rally in 8th to stun Nationals

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Survival at Zombie Apocalypse

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The obstacle courses are doable, but watch out for "dead" people.

This is KONQER chief experience officer Kaz Endo's reminder to participants of tomorrow's KONQER Saipan: Zombie Apocalypse.

The kick-off leg of the KONQER Apocalypse Tour will start at the American Memorial Park and will have four more checkpoints—Eloy S. Inos Peace Park, MIHA Housing in Garapan, Paseo De Marianas and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (beachside)—with "humans" and "zombies" both fighting for survival at the course.

At the AMP, participants (individuals and teams) will be randomly selected as "humans" and "zombies". The "humans" will have to negotiate the 5-kilometer course from AMP to the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park and avoid getting tagged by "zombies," who will trade places with "humans" if they steal the "humanity flag."

From AMP to the four other checkpoints, "zombies" will be around, and to avoid them, "humans" must have their two feet off the ground, or to be safe, they should have started any of the obstacle courses,

See SURVIVAL on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
KONQER Saipan: Zombie Apocalypse organizers and sponsors pose for a group photo during yesterday's press conference at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan for this Saturday's obstacle course event.

Favored players in quarterfinals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
No. 3 seed Matthew Garcia of the Philippines is in the quarterfinal round of the the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships after defeating Japan's Kaita Odani, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 7-5, yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

ITF World Tennis Tour

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seven of the eight quarterfinals berths in the boys singles event of the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships went to favored players, as games in the ITF Juniors World Tour event continued yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

No. 1 Yunseok Jang dominated the CNMI's Sean Lee, 6-0, 6-0, to march into the Round of 8 against No. 6 and Chinese-Taipei's Hong-Lin Fu, who eliminated South Korean and No. 6 Dogeon Park, 6-2, 6-1. Jang and Fu will battle for one of the two semis

See FAVORED on Page 30

Tsunami Saipan holds time trial

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan held a time trial in seven events early this month with more than 30 swimmers racing at the Pacific Islands Club pool.

The event started with a 50-yard freestyle swim and Juhn Tenorio posted the fastest time (23.78 seconds) among the 39 fin-

See TSUNAMI on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members gather for a photo after participating in a time trial this month at the Pacific Islands Club pool.